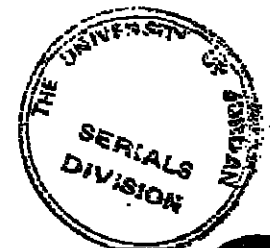


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ARAB TIMES



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NO. 7821 MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1990/SAH'ABAN 22, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILS

Saudis put a stop to UAE re-exports

ABU DHABI, March 18, (AP): A re-export trade worth \$300 million a year from the United Arab Emirates to Saudi Arabia has been crippled by a Saudi decision, economy officials and traders said today.

The Saudi Ministry of Finance and National Economy issued a regulation restricting imports from the UAE if unaccompanied by a copy of the original bill of lading, as of March 1, the officials said.

Traders in the UAE believed the decision was meant to bring a halt to UAE re-exports to Saudi Arabia "as the Saudi authorities knew we cannot provide them with those certificates," said one of the sources, all speaking on condition they not be named.

"The invoices we receive contain all goods imported and not only those re-exported to Saudi Arabia, and merchants here would not accept to reveal their foreign trade contacts or the original prices," said the source.

Officials here could not explain the reason for the Saudi move, directed only against re-exports from the UAE, and not any other state.

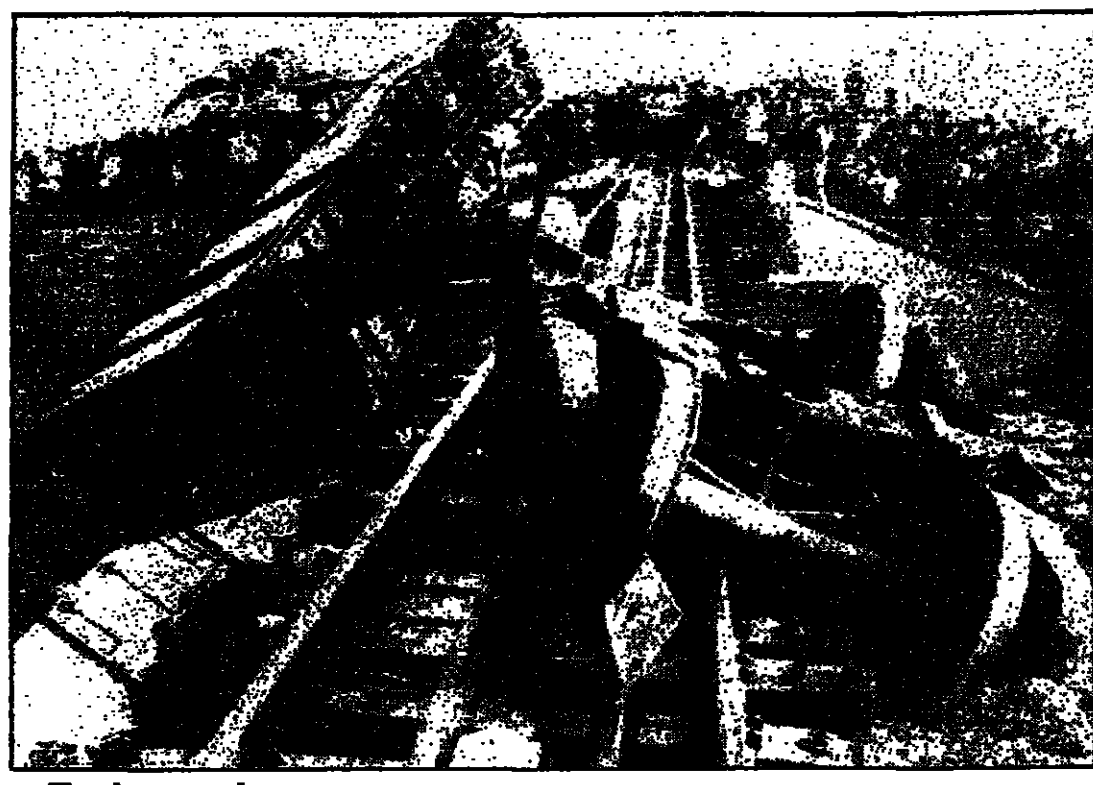
UAE re-exports to Saudi Arabia have more than doubled since 1985, estimated at around 1.1 billion dirhams (\$300 million) in 1989, the officials said.

The amount is 20 per cent of the total UAE re-export mostly garments, gold, cement and manufactured goods coming mainly from Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The reported wrangle is between two members of the six-nation GCC.

The GCC countries have yet to develop a uniform customs tariff system and Dubai, which has a free trade zone at Jebel Ali, has the least import barriers. It is the second largest emirate after Abu Dhabi.

(Continued on Page 13)



Train crash
Two freight cars and a passenger coach plunged into a river near Dhaka, killing six people and injuring another 50, railway officials said on Sunday. In the picture people are seen looking at the wreckage of one of the railway carriages. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Pakistan exploiting Kashmir problem'



Najma Heptullah
By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

INDIAN parliamentarian Najma Heptullah has said that India may have a dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir if talks are held within the framework of the Simla Agreement.

The Simla Agreement says that the problem of Kashmir must be resolved bilaterally, without outside interference, and both parties must resist hostile propaganda.

Heptullah, deputy chairman of the Indian Rajya Sabha (Upper House), was on an official visit to Kuwait to deliver a message from Indian Premier V.P. Singh to HH the Amir. She also paid a similar visit to Iraq.

At a press conference yesterday, she cautioned Pakistan against aggravating the situation in Kashmir saying that the problem in the north Indian state is an "internal affair and not a religious issue."

"We don't want Pakistan to make it a communal issue by (saying) it is a Muslim uprising. It is a Kashmiri demand, and a Kashmiri uprising."

Commenting on a recent statement by Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto, Heptullah said an atmosphere of "hatred is being generated by (such) provocative speeches."

She reiterated India's allegation that Pakistan is supporting the militants with arms and inflammatory rhetoric. "We have evidence (of) blatant exploitation (of the situation by Pakistan) and arming the terrorists," she said. Pakistan has denied the charges.

She described the situation in Kashmir as "serious" but ruled out another war over the territory despite reported troop movements along the borders of both India and Pakistan.

(Continued on Page 9)

Conservatives head for massive victory

East Germans vote in first free poll

EAST BERLIN, March 18, (Agencies): The Conservative Alliance for Germany seemed headed for a surprise landslide victory today in East Germany's first free elections, early television exit polls said.

A win for the Alliance in Eastern Europe's first free poll in four decades would force the pace of unification with West Germany. It would also mark a major triumph for West Germany's Christian Democrat (CDU) Chancellor Helmut Kohl, improving his chances of re-election in his own elections next December.

Within seconds of polling stations closing, exit polls conducted by West German ZDF television and East German television showed the three-party alliance backed by Kohl had almost 50 per cent of the vote.

First computer projections, reported by West German television, mirrored the exit polls. They gave the Alliance for Germany 53 per cent of the vote.



An elderly lady is assisted as she places her ballot in the box at a polling station during the East German general election. (Reuters wirephoto)

Supporters rally for Imelda in Philippines

MANILA, March 18, (AP): About 1,000 supporters of Ferdinand Marcos rallied today to show support for his widow and protest her impending trial on racketeering charges in the United States.

The racketeering case against Imelda Marcos begins Tuesday with jury selection in Manhattan's federal court. Prosecutors will try to prove she helped in the illegal transfer of more than \$160 million to buy four commercial buildings in Manhattan.

In Sunday's protest in a downtown square, Marcos supporters carried banners reading "Justice for Imelda" and "We love the Marcoses."

Marcos died last September in Hawaii, where he lived in exile since he was ousted as president in the February 1986 "People Power" revolution that propelled Corason Aquino into the presidency.

Imelda, 60, also is accused of defrauding banking institutions of more than \$165 million in financing that real estate and of obstructing justice in a civil lawsuit filed by the Filipino government to reclaim the properties.

The Philippine government claims Marcos, Imelda and their supporters embezzled up to \$10 billion during his 20-year presidency.

Marcos was never indicted for a criminal offence in the Philippines because the government feared he would insist on his right to return from exile to defend himself.

Aquino has refused to allow members of the Marcos family to return to the Philippines, citing national security. She also refused to allow Marcos to be buried in the Philippines.

Marcos supporters say the New York trial is an affront to national dignity and accuse the government of allowing a foreign power to "persecute" members of a former first family.

The United States will pull its forces out of the Philippines within a year if it cannot get a new agreement to extend use of key military bases, the commander of US forces in the Pacific said.

Crisis averted as Lal changes mind

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 18: Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal today withdrew his resignation from the union cabinet, staving off a major political crisis that threatened to engulf India's new three-and-a-half month old government.

Devi Lal's decision not to press his resignation came after Prime Minister VP Singh wrote a two-page letter to him in which he said: "Taking an overall view, I do not accept your resignation from the union cabinet."

Senior party leaders, including front chairman N.T. Rama Rao, made frantic efforts to persuade Lal to stay in office.

Earlier in the day, the parliamentary board of the Janata Dal, the main constituent of the five-party ruling National Front held a brief meeting at which the issue was discussed.

Later, Devi Lal had a long meeting with chief ministers of four states — Chimanbhai Patel of Gujarat, Mulayam Singh Yadav of Uttar Pradesh, Lallu Prasad Yadav of Bihar and Om Prakash Chautala of Haryana — all of whom owe allegiance to the deputy prime minister.

Soon after this meeting, Devi Lal's decision to withdraw his resignation was announced, capping three days of hectic political activity in the capital since he shot off a letter to Singh Friday evening making known his plan to resign.

Singh said in his letter that Devi Lal was one of the main architects of the Janata Dal and had contributed greatly to its success in the elections.

"The mandate of one people was clear at least on one point, (Continued on Page 4)

They gave the Social Democrats (SPD) 21 per cent and the communists 13 per cent.

Television presenters said the exit polls, while broadly pointing to the same result, had a higher than usual margin of error given East Germany's democratic inexperience.

A deadly silence spread across the Social Democrats' election centre as the forecasts putting them a distant second were read out on television.

Party leader Ibrahim Boehme, whose party had an early lead in the campaign and looked set to become prime minister, declined to comment until the actual results were known.

But deputy leader Markus Meckel appeared to concede defeat. "It is clear, if these results are correct, that we are the big losers," he said on television.

The Alliance, which favours rapid unification with West Germany, consists of the local Christian Democratic Union, once a communist satellite, and two new parties, the German Social Union (DSU) and Democratic Awakening (DA).

The Alliance's surge in support came despite the resignation on Wednesday of Democratic Awakening leader Wolfgang Schnur after admitting he had been a Stasi secret police informer.

At the CDU election party supporters were celebrating as if they had already won hands down.

"Sieg sieg sieg (victory)," shouted one young man with cropped hair and an armful of tattoos as another banged his fists on a table screaming: "We've won, we've won."

Outgoing Prime Minister Hans Modrow's Communist (Continued on Page 2)



Rainer Eppelmann... Democratic Awakening Party leader.

Thirteen perish in Tehran gas blast

TEHRAN, March 18, (Reuters): A gas explosion killed 13 people, destroyed a four-storey building and started a massive fire in the Iranian capital Tehran today.

The blast also injured many people in the middle class area of central Tehran, some critically, and the Iranian news agency Irna said the death toll was expected to rise.

One witness who was working in a shop about 70 metres away told Reuters: "I saw flames leaping away from the site. After a few seconds the fire receded, then a flame shot out six storeys high."

Rescue workers toiled to shift debris around a massive crater as a crane lifted heavy pieces of masonry.

Irna said: "Firefighters and relief workers are clearing the debris and in view of the rush hour the casualty toll is expected to go up. The blast has left a large crater at the site."

It said the explosion, at 11.30 am (0830 GMT), was caused by a gas leak in an underground gas distribution chamber. It destroyed several cars and gutted at least 15 houses and shops.

One eyewitness said: "One four-storey building has completely collapsed and burnt. Even the steel beams were twisted."

Windows were smashed in buildings up to 50 metres away and curtains were charred or burnt by the blast.

Police cordoned off the area. Staff of Tehran's governor set up temporary offices where local residents filled in forms listing damage to their property.

Supermarket fire kills 15 in Tokyo

TOKYO, March 18, (UPI): Fire roared through the upper two floors of a five-storey discount department store filled with weekend shoppers in a northern suburb of Osaka today, killing 12 employees and three boys, and seriously injuring six other people, police and fire officials said.

One 12-year-old boy survived a miraculous jump from a fourth-storey window to escape the inferno, they said.

Authorities said the dead were all asphyxiated as they ate lunch in the employees' dining room or played video arcade games in an adjacent area on the top floor of the "Big Off" Nagasakiya discount department store in Amagasaki city just north of Osaka's second largest city of Osaka.

Fire officials said the blaze of unknown origin erupted just after noon on the fourth floor of the discount store, which featured bedding, draperies and linen.

A shopper who first spotted the fire notified an employee, who immediately sounded the fire alarm.

Although employees safely evacuated some 14 people shopping on the fourth floor and scores of others on the floors below, the fire quickly shot to the top floor, engulfing the employees' cafeteria and nearby arcade centre in heavy smoke and flames.

Police and fire officials said the bodies of all 15 victims were found on the upper floor.

They said the three boys who died — believed aged from 10 to 12 — may have succumbed as they played video arcade games.

Police said the dead workers — 10 women and two men — were all found in the employees' dining area.

The smoke engulfed the area so quickly it appeared they had little chance to escape, they said.



Smoke blows up into the air from a fire in a five-storey supermarket in Japan's western city of Amagasaki on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)

End monopoly, urges Najib

KABUL, March 18, (AP): President Najib called today for Afghanistan's ruling party to give up its monopoly on power, the official Bakhtar news agency reported.

In a speech to the party's policy-making central committee, Najib also proposed convening a grand assembly of government and social leaders to change the constitution, Bakhtar reported.

The news agency said the party committee also removed 24 members from its ranks following the failed coup attempt earlier this month by then-defence minister Shah Nawaz Tanai.

International intelligence agencies deny Bazoff was a spy

LONDON, March 18, (AP): International intelligence agencies have categorically denied Iraq's allegations that executed journalist Farzad Bazoff was a spy, the newspaper he wrote for reported today.

But one Conservative lawmaker reiterated his opinion that Bazoff probably worked for Israel and another said the journalist deserved his fate because he knew the risks and possible consequences of what he was doing.

Nearly 200 people, many of them journalists on the weekly Observer newspaper, held a silent, 90-minute vigil outside the Iraqi embassy in West London to protest Bazoff's hanging last Thursday.

A lone pro-Iraqi demonstrator carrying a cloth banner proclaiming "No place for spies and traitors in Iraq" was led away by police after members of the vigil shouted "go home" and "we don't want you here."

In Moscow, a Soviet television commentator Yevgeny Kiselyov said yesterday that Iraq's execution of Bazoff went against the norms of behaviour in the civilised world.

A Tehran newspaper today described Iranian-born Bazoff, as a mercenary who had sold his pen to the West.

The headline Jomhuri Eslami said in a commentary titled "The consequence of being a mercenary" that writing had its place but "in the absence of commitment, the writer will sell his honour, reputation, faith, nationality and everything."

Saudi Arabia today backed Iraq's action in executing Bazoff, an official statement in Baghdad said.

"Saudi Arabia expressed support for Iraq's measures which were adopted to protect its security against espionage and aggression," said a joint communique released shortly after President Saddam Hussein returned from talks in Saudi Arabia with King Fahd.

The communique "stressed Iraq's right to exercise all measures that guarantee the protection of its society against any attempt aimed at harming its security and stability."

"The discussions touched on foreign media reports about measures taken by Iraq towards the spy Farzad Bazoff who Iraq affirmed admitted to spying for Israeli intelligence and was legally tried in line with Vienna agreements," the communique carried by Baghdad Radio and the Saudi Press Agency said.

The statement followed Western condemnation of the hanging.

Policeman shot dead

SRINAGAR, March 18, (Reuters): Kashmiri militants fighting for independence shot dead a policeman in Anantnag, 55 km (34 miles) south of Srinagar, today, police said.

Police said masked gunmen shot Gulam Hassan from close range, while he was patrolling a street.

On Saturday night, militants killed two people.

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light to moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 6.00 am, 4.00 pm

Low water: 11.00 am, 10.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.53 am

Sunset: 5.59 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 23°C/73°F

Ahmad: 21°C/70°F

Falaka: 23°C/73°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 15°C/59°F

Ahmad: 15°C/59°F

Falaka: 14°C/57°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 25°C/77°F

Ahmad: 23°C/73°F

Falaka: 24°C/75°F

Minimum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 52 per cent

Ahmad: 54 per cent

Falaka: 50 per cent

DAY BY DAY

SOME GCC countries have allowed Gulf citizens to own property in those countries. Unfortunately, some of these countries have placed obstacles before implementing their decision. They have restricted the size of area that can be owned; another precondition is that the investor must own a private residence which cannot be sold for at least eight years.

Perhaps, other conditions might be added later like if a person wants to sell his property, he must give the property to the municipality or simply donate it to an orphanage and so on...

Why is it so complicated in some GCC states while the property issue is uncomplicated in other member countries? To these countries, we say, if they want to buy the British Queen's palace, now they can, as it has been offered for sale without preconditions.

Zahed Matar

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LANGLEY, British Columbia: Taking ukuleles to Hawaii sounds about as misplaced as shipping coals to Newcastle.

But that is what 25 Vancouver-area students, aged 9 to 19, are doing this week.

"Even though the ukulele is the key instrument in their society — it's as Hawaiian as the grass skirt — the school authorities over there want to learn the Canadian teaching methods we use which are so successful," said Peter Luongo, vice principal and music specialist at Allen Bay Elementary.

The school has become so skilled at teaching the four-stringed, guitar-like instrument that word has reached Hawaii.

The ukulele, introduced from Portugal into the Hawaiian islands about 1879, was first used in Canadian schools in the maritime provinces about 20 years ago to teach music, he said.

"It came to Langley about 15 years ago and we got some really keen kids," he said. "I picked up the programme when I came here and developed a senior honour group."

The students have played in concerts across Canada and will play for most of the 10-day trip beginning Thursday.

"We will be given a lot of hospitality but we'll be going to schools that are very meagre compared to ours and I think our students will learn a lot about the other side of Hawaii — it's not all lush hotels," Luongo said. (AP)

NEW YORK: Jean Quigley, the astrologer whose advice to former First Lady Nancy Reagan reportedly set the president's schedule, says she is finished with the Reagans.

"When you're that friendly with someone and they just cut you off... it borders on the incredible."

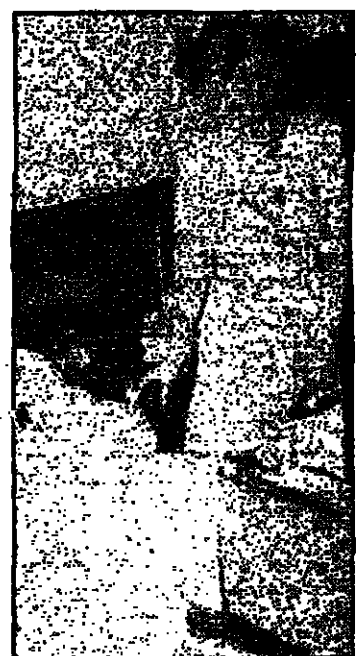
Quigley said in an interview in *Fame* magazine's April issue.

The title of Quigley's new book, *What Does Joan Say?* is what Ronald Reagan is said to have asked his wife after her telephone consultations with the astrologer during the Reagans' White House years.

The disclosure that Mrs Reagan consulted an astrologer made the Reagan white house the butt of jokes.

"Why did Quigley write the autobiography and blast her former clients?"

"I felt I had played an important role in the administration," she said. "I had to stand up for reputable astrologers." (AP)



Di shakes hands with a leper during a visit to the Molai leprosy hospital. (Reuters wirephoto)

Korean

Spouses reunited

TOKYO, March 18, (AP): A 62-year-old South Korean woman was reunited with her husband who defected to Communist North Korea 40 years ago during the Korean war, press reports said today.

The emotional reunion occurred last night when the woman hugged her 63-year-old husband, Sohn Young-Chong, after handing over a bunch of flowers from his homeland, according to the mass-circulation *Yomiuri* Shimbun newspaper.

The *Yomiuri* said Sohn left his home as a college student in Seoul and volunteered for the North Korean army in 1950, when the North invaded the South, triggering a three-year war.

He now has another wife and six children in North Korea, according to *Yonhap*, the South Korean news agency. He met his first wife during an officially-guided tour as a North Korean historian.

"Now, I have nothing more to be desired, because I have met my husband thought to be dead," the woman was quoted as saying in the *Yonhap* report.

Yonhap said she was pregnant when her husband left three years after their marriage.

WASHINGTON: Walter T. Rieder, a former member of the Knight-Ridder, Inc., board of directors, who had also run the information service for the Marshall plan in Paris, has died. He was 72.

Rieder died Saturday at his home in suburban Washington, after a long illness. (AP)

LAGOS: British royals Prince Charles and Princess Diana left Lagos on Saturday to visit a leprosy hospital on the brink of the Sahara desert in northern Nigeria.

The visit to Molai Leprosy Hospital, near the town of Maiduguri, was a special request of the royal couple. (AP)



Mongolia's rock group Honkh

N. Enkhair (left) and S. Tsogtsaihan, two members of Mongolia's most popular rock group, Honkh, work on their equipment in a studio March 16. The band's songs are critical of the ruling Communist Party and have been adopted by many new democratic parties as anthems calling for political change. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kangaroo with pacemaker dies

SAN FRANCISCO, March 18, (AP): Skippy, a San Francisco zoo kangaroo that received a pacemaker in a first-of-its-kind operation, has died of complications from a weak heart, zoo officials said.

The 7-year-old red kangaroo died Wednesday at the University of California at Davis Veterinary Hospital, where she had been transferred after the March 5 surgery.

Zoo director Phil Arnold said that even with the pacemaker, Skippy's heart contractions weren't strong enough to move blood through her body.

Veterinarians decided to try a pacemaker when they discovered the animal's heart rate was slow and dropping.

A team of cardiologists led by Dr John Langbert of the University of California-San Francisco Medical School performed the operation. The pacemaker was donated.

"The pacemaker implant was a first for a kangaroo," said Arnold. "We had hoped that the surgery would have prolonged her life and she was saddened by the loss."

MERIDIAN, Mississippi: When Hartley Peavey throws a birthday party, he expects a little feedback.

Peavey expects more than 1,000 guests from all 50 states and several foreign countries to attend the 25th anniversary party for his Meridian-based company Peavey Electronics, famed for its rock 'n' roll amplifiers.

Company spokesman Jerry Hies said Peavey already has booked half of Meridian's 1,400 hotel rooms for the June 12-14 event, and may need more. The Lauderdale county tourism commission estimates the party will put \$420,000 into the local economy.

Most guests will be dealers and distributors of Peavey products, which the privately owned company exports to 102 countries. Peavey also has a plant in Britain and distribution centres in Canada and the Netherlands. (AP)

MELBOURNE, Florida: Hundreds of thousands of college spring vacationers are descending on Florida for beer and bikinis, but 17 American University students are spending the week helping to build houses for the needy.

The eight men and nine women who arrived Sunday from Washington, D.C., are putting in eight-hour work days, eating at churches and spending the night in sleeping bags on the floor of the Holy Trinity Salvation Center.

"This group really wants to work," said Joy Willard-Willford, project director for the South Broward Habitat for Humanity.

"They came with their hammers and tools and their nail aprons on. They were all decked out." (AP)

PARIS: A major museum focusing on life in medieval France is to be built next to the historic cathedral in charters, according to a plan presented Tuesday to Premier Michel Rocard.

Charles Deputy Mayor Georges Lemoine said after meeting with Rocard that the museum would feature exhibits dealing with religious art, literature, the crusades, and daily life in the middle ages.

He suggested the museum could be a centre for symposiums on the middle ages and for performances, perhaps including concerts of Gregorian chants. (AP)

NAIROBI: Poachers have killed 57 African elephants in just one game park since January, director of Kenyan wildlife services Richard Leakey said Saturday.

Leakey, interviewed by the Standard newspaper, blamed Britain's decision Jan 17, to allow Hong Kong to sell ivory stocks, for the alarming upsurge in elephant poaching, which further threatens the heavily endangered species. (UPI)

ZURICH, Switzerland: A painting by Vincent Van Gogh valued at \$1.8 million has been reported stolen from a customs warehouse, police said Monday.

Wheat Field with Stocks, dated 1888, was to be shown to a potential buyer Friday but the safe containing it was found to be empty, police said.

The safe was not damaged, and the frame was found in a nearby closet, they said. (AP)

Beach battle pits nudists against small birds

SOUTH KINGSTOWN, Rhode Island, March 18, (AP): The only frolicking the US government wants on a nude beach in Rhode Island is by a small group of birds whose existence is considered threatened.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has decided that the secluded and popular Moonstone Beach will be off-limits for nude sunbathers this summer in order to protect the tiny piping plover.

Moonstone has been the only spot on the 420-mile (675-km) Rhode Island coast — and one of few along the New England shore — where nudists can sun themselves.

But federal officials and environmental groups say that when humans enter, the piping plover leaves. The bird is listed on the federal endangered species list as threatened, a step away from the designation of endangered.

"The human activity serves as a distraction to the plovers," said James Kurth, manager of the Trust of Pond National Wildlife Refuge, which includes Moonstone Beach. "They're constantly moved away from their breeding grounds."

He cited a University of Massachusetts study more than a decade ago that showed plovers will leave an area where humans congregate.

Nudists see the battle over the bird as a subterfuge to the underlying issue: they claim the government wants beaches in the northeastern United States free of nude sunbathers.

They also say they can coexist with the little bird — and, in fact, have for years.

"It doesn't have anything to do with the animal unless the people are bothering them," said Ron Laporte of Glastonbury, Connecticut, as he lounged on a blanket on the sun-drenched beach Thursday morning.

He was bundled in a denim jacket against a sea breeze.



Put it there, pardner!

Dancing monkey shakes hands with children after the show to collect money from them on a Delhi street yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Morgan meets daughter Hilary after 3 years

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, March 18, (Reuters): American plastic surgeon Elizabeth Morgan, reunited with her daughter yesterday after almost three years, took the child to a Sunday church service in the New Zealand city of Christchurch.

Accompanied by her British-born mother Antonia, Morgan took seven-year-old Hilary Foretich to church in Christchurch, where she has lived in hiding since 1988.

Morgan and her ex-husband Eric Foretich have fought a prolonged and bitter battle for custody of Hilary which has attracted enormous interest in the United States.

A US court jailed Morgan after she refused to allow Foretich unsupervised visits to Hilary and sent her into hiding. Morgan accuses Foretich of sexually abusing their

child, charges he vigorously denies. Morgan spent more than two years behind bars and was released last September only after President George Bush signed special legislation to free her.

In contrast to the media hue and cry after Foretich tracked Hilary down in Christchurch last month, only one television crew witnessed Sunday's visit to St. Mary's Anglican Church, where the child and her grandparents are regular parishioners.

"It was a normal Sunday service. There were no special arrangements," said Reverend Blair Robertson, vicar of St. Mary's. Robertson said that he had had no warning that Elizabeth Morgan would be joining her daughter.

Killer bee threatens honeybee business

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana, March 18, (AP): With killer bees approaching US borders, scientists are looking for a slave for the honeybee industry to take the economic sting out of the invasion.

Reports of swarming Africanised bees attacking small children and large animals have bee-keepers worried — not so much about sometimes deadly bites as about the way they earn their living.

"Beekeepers will go out of business... rather than go through all of this ordeal," said Donald O'Neill, president of the Louisiana Beekeepers Association. "People will not want to let them have locations to place their bees because people are afraid of the Africanised bee."

Much of the research under way at the US Agriculture Department's honeybee breeding, genetics and physiology laboratory at Louisiana State University is focused on protecting the gene pool of the domesticated European honeybee and teaching the public how to avoid the aggressive Africanised honeybee.

Bees help pollinate more than 100 crop plants in the United States, including almonds, apples, water-cress and white clover.

"Every third mouthful of food or drink you eat... is there because of honeybees," said Hellmich, a research entomologist at the honeybee lab.

At the small lab in a pasture dotted with beehives, researchers examine Africanised bees, trying to expose the secrets of genetics, identification and behaviour.

The Africanised bee — scientists dislike the sensational "killer bee" moniker — could wing into Brownsville, Texas, in the next few months. The bees have migrated 200-300 miles (320-480 km) a year.

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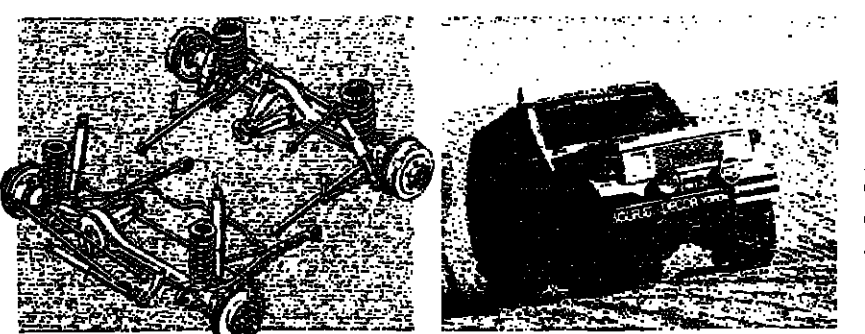
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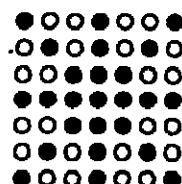
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INTERNATIONAL

Gorbachev defends his reforms

MOSCOW, March 18, (UPI): Newly empowered Mikhail Gorbachev defended his struggling reform drive, but acknowledged "perestroika" must be pursued with "more dynamism."

Gorbachev, who ran unopposed in the secret balloting late Wednesday at the Congress of People's Deputies, emerged from the election with a comfortable margin of victory Thursday, but hardly an overwhelming mandate.

"I understand how dramatic the situation is, how complicated and unusual the problems are, and how emotionally charged society is, but I do not see any grounds for panic, let alone replacing perestroika

with another policy," Gorbachev said in his acceptance speech.

"It is obvious, however, that perestroika should be radicalised," he said. "And I shall use my presidential powers above all toward this end."

But Gorbachev, who reaffirmed his allegiance to communism, later told reporters not to expect any immediate, dramatic moves.

"The point is not to surprise the world with new initiatives, but to carry out what we have already been doing with more dynamism," he said. "I possess one (main) trait: I remain who I am, and that is the person I will be."

President Bush sent Gorbachev a message of congratulations from Washington, and French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl also sent their regards to the Soviet leader.

Gorbachev at his news conference hinted that his June summit with Bush could produce an even larger agreement than the pact the two presidents expect to sign reducing strategic nuclear arms.

Gorbachev's victory was sealed Wednesday when his supporters in the Congress narrowly defeated a bid to force him to stand for direct national elections, approving a measure that sets the first such

presidential polls for 1995.

Gorbachev took office four days after a new nationalist-dominated parliament in Lithuania declared the republic independent. He also faces secessionist sentiment elsewhere in the Baltic region, and other parts of the vast country have been torn by ethnic clashes.

After Gorbachev's swearing in, the Congress of People's Deputies passed a resolution declaring Lithuania's independence declaration Sunday "null and void" and saying "the sovereignty of the Soviet Union and its constitution continue to extend to the territory of Lithuania as a constituent socialist republic."

Maggie won't give up

'I'll fight every inch of the way' to win polls

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): A defiant Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, under pressure from inside and outside her Conservative Party, launched a determined counter-attack against her critics today and vowed to fight on as Britain's leader.

Despite opinion polls showing the party is heading for its worst by-election defeat in more than half a century next Thursday, she pledged to "fight every inch of the way" to win a fourth successive general election victory.

Thatcher and the Conservative Party, in power since 1979, are losing support because of unpopular economic policies and worries about reforms of the state-run national health service.

Inflation remains stubbornly high, despite a tough policy of high interest rates, and a new local tax — the community charge or "poll tax" — has provoked nationwide protests that have often degenerated into near-riots.

The annual budget, unveiled next Tuesday by Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major, is seen as crucial for the government's future prospects.

Thatcher acknowledged the government was now unpopular because of high interest rates and the poll tax but insisted her policies were right.

"This is not a poor country," she said.

Opinion polls today showed the Conservatives face a crushing defeat by the opposition Labour Party in next Thursday's by-election in the Mid-Staffordshire constituency.

A survey in the Independent on Sunday newspaper said 56 per cent would vote Labour against 26 per cent for the Conservatives who won the seat comfortably in the last general election in 1987.

A second poll in the Sunday Times showed Labour with 55 per cent and the Conservatives with 29 per cent.

Political analysts believe the Conservative's economic policies are losing them many of their natural supporters, particularly among the skilled working classes.

Press reports last week said as many as a quarter of Conservative Members of Parliament wanted Thatcher to step down before the next election.

A former defence secretary, Michael Heseltine, is mounting a thinly disguised campaign for the future party leadership although he has said he will not challenge Thatcher.

Thatcher dismissed rumours of a plot to overthrow her by a dissident group of Conservative Members of Parliament.

"I do not believe there are many doing that," she said. "The majority have stayed remarkably loyal."

But a senior Conservative confirmed the party was looking to possible changes in the way it elects its leader following an unsuccessful but embarrassing challenge of Thatcher from within the party last year.

Crisis averted as Devi Lal changes mind

(Continued from Page 1)

and that was that we all work together and don't fall apart. The people will never excuse us if we fail them. Insidious attempts are going on to sow seeds of dissensions amongst us so as to bring down this government which was functioning smoothly so far and had started implementing its election pledges with vigour and in right earnestness," the letter said.

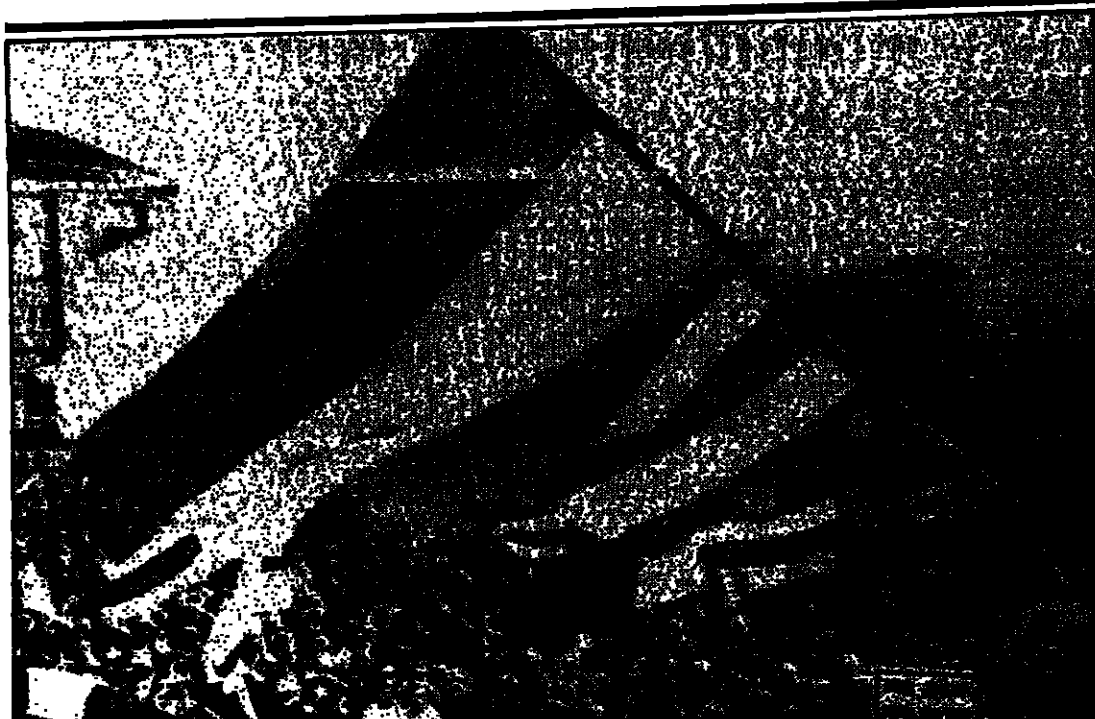
The prime minister said the party must not allow such plans to succeed. "At the same time, we have to live up to the norms of public life that people expect of us and fulfil their aspirations. Taking an overall view," he said.

Singh also referred to several points raised by Devi Lal in a long letter he sent to the prime minister Friday an hour after he resigned from the cabinet.

The letter gave the impression that Devi Lal's action was not abrupt but the result of a series of decisions calculated to sidetrack and humiliate him. "Ever since I became deputy prime minister, you considered me not as a colleague but as a liability," it is reported to have said.

"We have the best direction, the best vision and the capacity to stick to our guns," Thatcher said in an interview with the Sunday Express newspaper.

The next general election, which she must call before mid-1992, would not be easy, Thatcher said. "I have always found elections tough. I never assumed that we would win," she said. "We fight every inch of the way."



Large crowds gather to wave Lithuanian flags and banners in front of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet in Vilnius. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reformers may control 5 Soviet republics

Polls trouble brewing

MOSCOW, March 18, (Reuters):

Reformers were expected to take control of parliaments in Estonia and Latvia and in key Soviet capitals as voters went to the polls today.

The local and republic elections were expected to add to the headaches of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as he tries to control the rebel republic of Lithuania, which has appealed for world recognition of its week-old declaration of independence.

Voters in Lithuania's Baltic neighbours, Estonia and Latvia, were almost certain to elect parliaments that would follow its lead and press hard for independence.

In Latvia's capital, Riga, more than 150,000 people staged a rally on Saturday calling for the republic to become "free and democratic," the pro-independence popular front said.

In the Slavic republics of Russia, the Ukraine, and Byelorussia, where the second round of local and republic elections was taking place, reformers were well-placed to win a majority in cities including Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev.

However, voter turnout was crucial to their hopes and the first round of the elections on March 4 did not excite much public interest, making today's results hard to predict.

Red flags fluttered outside polling stations around Moscow today but there was no early rush to vote.

"We've only had a few dozen people come in here so far and most of them were old ladies," said a polling station official in the Taganka region of Moscow.

Only a small percentage of the local and republic parliamentary seats were filled in the March 4 elections, partly because there were so many candidates — more than 20 in some districts.

In the Russian federation, 120 of the 1,068 deputies to the republic's parliament were elected two weeks ago, with all the other districts requiring a second round of voting between the top two vote-getters.

The situation was similar in the Ukraine, where just 112 of 450 parliamentarians were elected on March 4. In Byelorussia, 98 deputies out of 360 were elected, but another 50 had already been chosen as representatives of public organisations.

Lithuania appealed on Saturday for world recognition of its week-old declaration of independence in the face of Gorbachev's demand that it fall back on line.

Meeting in the capital, Vilnius, the newly-elected Lithuanian parliament and the Baltic republic's new President Vytautas Landsbergis issued their appeal "to the governments of democratic nations."

"An important sign of political and moral support would be the recognition of the laws and legislative acts of March 11, 1990, the recognition of the new government of Lithuania. This we kindly request," the appeal read.

It came a day after Gorbachev told the Lithuanians they had until Monday to back down from the declaration, which has been declared invalid by the parliament in Moscow.

Soviets woo Lithuanians

MOSCOW, March 18, (UPI): Soviet Army helicopters dropped thousands of leaflets yesterday on the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, saying the parliament's recent declaration of independence does not represent the will of the Lithuanian people, reports said.

The parliament appealed again to "the governments of democratic nations" to recognise Lithuania as a free country, saying such recognition would be "an important sign of political and moral support."

President Vytautas Landsbergis informed parliament of Soviet troop movements in eastern and southern Lithuania, according to Roman Sakadolski, a Voice of America radio correspondent who spoke with United Press International by phone from Vilnius.

"There are manoeuvres of troops in southern Lithuania," Landsbergis told UPI by phone after the parliament session. "Soviet troops are also visible in the eastern part of Lithuania. And we have received reports of the transfer of paratroopers from one region to another."

The alleged troop movement could not be confirmed independently, and the reason for the claimed manoeuvres was unknown.

The reported activity came one day after Soviet President sent Landsbergis a message giving him until tomorrow to respond to a Moscow resolution branding the March 11 independence declaration "null and void" and declaring that Soviet laws still operate in Lithuania.

Soviet television said thousands of people in Vilnius rallied in support of their new government. The official Tass news agency said "many thousands" in the fellow Baltic republic of Latvia demonstrated in the capital of Riga to demand the election of nationalists today in scheduled polls.

President Gorbachev denied today he had imposed an ultimatum on Lithuania over its declaration of independence and renewed his offer to hold talks with the rebellious Baltic republic. Deputies from Lithuania headed to Moscow today to answer his call to rescind the move.



Opera house opens

France's new national opera house, plagued by financial problems, technical headaches and artistic squabbles, staged its grand opening nine months late on Saturday with a glittering capacity audience and a near disaster.

The audience gasped and cheered in the Bastille Opera house crouched in horror when a huge prop crashed into a steel curtain sending splinters flying onto the stage below during the opening-night performance of a neglected work by 19th century French composer Hector Berlioz.

People gather near the Bastille Opera at the official opening with Hector Berlioz's opera 'Les Troyens.' The woman on right holds the programme as she queues up in line. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mongolia leaders promise elections

ULAN BATOR, March 18, (AP):

A leading instigator of Mongolia's leap toward democracy, a graduate student named Zorig, was only the slightest of smiles on what appeared to be a day of great triumph for his four-month-old opposition movement.

The ruling Communist Party's new leaders — replacing those whom the opposition successfully demanded resign — had just promised multi-party elections for the first time in Mongolia's history.

"It was just as I expected," Zorig said. "They have to reform."

But now his fledgling Mongolian Democratic Party and three other opposition parties face a new problem: deciding if the Communist Party is sincere or is merely trying to coopt and control the opposition by adopting its slogans of democracy and human rights.

On the surface, the forces of reform appear to have swept through Mongolia's Stalinist political system as swiftly and surely as national hero Genghis Khan's warriors swept through Central Asia in the 13th century in Mongolia's last glory days.

In the space of a week, the Mongolian People's Party renounced its constitutional guarantee of power, scheduled a full party congress to make more leadership changes and promised to work on equal terms with opposition groups that want democracy and market-style economic reforms.

It agreed to hold a referendum on the legitimacy of the current legislature, which rubber stamps party decisions, and draft a new election law. President Jambyn Batmunkh and Prime Minister Donsangyn Sodomsan offered to resign, and the legislature may accept their resignations next week.

But the apparatus of 69 years of communist rule remains in place. No one has suggested dismantling the dread committee of public security, Mongolia's KGB.

It is not clear if old rules, such as the ban on proselytizing outside Mongolia's one remaining Buddhist monastery, still hold.

Nor is it clear if the ousted leaders are really gone. A hot topic among Mongolians was whether they would retain their official salaries.

The new party secretary-general, Bombogayva Ochirbat, said Thursday it was too early to set forth specific reform plans, although he spoke in broad terms of improving economic efficiency. He stressed that Mongolians should remain socialist.

Some opposition activists suspect the communists have agreed to reform only as a realistic concession to the democratic forces sweeping the Soviet bloc, to which Mongolia belongs. The party's real intent, they fear, is to retain their power.

As proof, they report that when the Mongolian Democratic Party began a hunger strike last week, the move that triggered the leadership shuffle, the army was put on alert, although bullets were not issued.

The strike started Thursday, a day after the death of a prison clerk shot by suspected Basque separatists on a San Sebastian street. (AP)

Former dissidents meet: A dream Vaclav Havel cherished through years of persecution came true Sunday when about 2,000 members of Charter 77, Eastern Europe's oldest human rights movement, met for the first time.

"For many years I had a dream," Havel, who was elected President Jan 29 after years of imprisonment, said in brief opening remarks. "I had this dream when I was free, but more often when I was in prison."

"It was a dream that all signatories of Charter 77 would meet one day in some Prague hall, and will talk without being disturbed by the police. This dream, this archetypal vision, is being fulfilled today," he said. (AP)



Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel met leader of Polish Solidarity Lech Walesa on the Czechoslovak-Krkonose hills. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pledge to bring Europe closer

Havel, Walesa meet

KARKONOSZE NATIONAL PARK, Czechoslovakia, March 18, (AP):

Czechoslovakia and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa pledged yesterday to bring Europe closer together at their first meeting in the mountains — where the opposition of both countries forged a friendship years ago.

"It is a good thing that these two men finally meet," said Bronislaw Geremek, a Polish historian and leader of the Solidarity caucus in parliament.

Walesa had declined an opportunity to meet Havel during the Czechoslovak President's official visit to Poland in January, and the current meeting was expected to lead to an exchange of views on the future of Europe.

Hundreds of Czechoslovak and Polish tourists swarmed

around helicopters that brought Havel and Walesa to the top of the Sniezka mountain for their meeting.

During the late 1970s, members of Czechoslovak human rights movement Charter 77 and the Polish Committee for the Defence of Workers began meeting in the mountains that straddle the border.

Those meetings were interrupted in 1981 by the imposition of martial law, which crushed Solidarity and landed many of the Polish participants in jail at a time when Havel and other Czechoslovak activists were also serving time for political activities.

A joint communique issued after the three-hour meeting on the Czechoslovak side of the border called for the two sides to "co-ordinate our striving not only for democracy and order in

our countries but also for our return to Europe as a friendly union of free nations and democratic independent countries."

The two sides pledged to work to co-ordinate the transition from totalitarianism to democracy.

They also indirectly addressed the issue of German unity and called for a confirmation of the existing borders of Europe.

In a packed news conference at a hotel on the Polish side of the border, Havel, a playwright and veteran dissident, elected president of Czechoslovakia on Dec 29, offered a clear vision of how he perceived the "return to Europe" of countries oppressed by post-war totalitarianism.

"Smaller nations will not be afraid of bigger nations anymore and the big nations will not have to rival each other," he said.



Warsaw Pact treaty foreign ministers pose for a photograph in Prague. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fail to agree on German alignment

Warsaw Pact in a fix

PRAGUE, March 18, (AP):

Warsaw Pact foreign ministers reflecting the new diversity of an alliance once dominated by Moscow, failed yesterday to agree whether a united Germany should be neutral or in Nato.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze stood alone in ruling out Nato membership for the united Germany, Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry spokesman Lubos Dobrovsky said.

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, who with President Vaclav Havel advocates dissolution of both Nato and the Warsaw Pact, fleshed out that vision in a speech to the closed-door session.

Dienstbier proposed a "pan-European security agreement" policed by a new European security commission.

The basis of the agreement should be that "nobody can

attack anybody else" and that all signatories agree to provide aid, including military help, if any signatory does come under attack, Dienstbier told the meeting.

The text of his speech was later released to reporters.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn, who declined to talk to reporters, was said to be among those advocating a possible role for Germany in Nato, officials at the meeting indicated.

Horn caused a stir last month by suggesting that Hungary might eventually join Nato. His statement was swiftly watered down by military and other officials, and Horn last week said he could envisage eventual convergence of Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

In his own comments to reporters, Shevardnadze stressed that the main question concerning a united Germany is the level of

armaments. Coming on the eve of East Germany's first free elections, the ministerial meeting reflected the growing divergence of 1990 European nations' stances on wars with Germany, and casting off Stalinist models imposed by Moscow.

Participants insisted the meeting was intended to discuss German unity and its impact on Europe, rather than to reach agreement on complex new designs for the security of the world's best-armed region.

Consensus emerged that Nato and the Warsaw Pact, while outmoded will exist for some time, altered gradually by German unification and Eastern Europe's dash to democracy.

Discussing the security alternatives for a united Germany, Dienstbier said some nations opined that neutrality would be "the worst alternative."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prison workers strike: A strike by prison workers demanding greater security against Basque separatist attacks spread to 50 of the nation's 83 prisons on its third day, prison officials said.

The National Prison Bureau said police forces had taken over from strikers at half the 50 affected prisons, while small groups of staff members maintained minimum services at the others.

At some prisons, inmates protested delays in food and medical service and cancellations of family visits.

The strike started Thursday, a day after the death of a prison clerk shot by suspected Basque separatists on a San Sebastian street. (AP)

Former dissidents meet: A dream Vaclav Havel cherished through years of persecution came true Sunday when about 2,000 members of Charter 77, Eastern Europe's oldest human rights movement, met for the first time.

"For many years I had a dream," Havel, who was elected President Jan 29 after years of imprisonment, said in brief opening remarks. "I had this dream when I was free, but more often when I was in prison."

"It was a dream that all signatories of Charter 77 would meet one day in some Prague hall, and will talk without being disturbed by the police. This dream, this archetypal vision, is being fulfilled today," he said. (AP)

Poland's elections: Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki said on Sunday that post-war Poland's first fully democratic local elections would be held on May 27, the official Pap News Agency said.

This will be one of the major political events of the year," Mazowiecki told representatives of Solidarity-backed Citizens' Committees meeting in Warsaw.

"There can be no democratic state without true local democracy," he added.

Under a government reform programme the democratically-elected councils will be granted broader autonomy to manage local affairs which were previously controlled by Warsaw. (Reuters)

Nobel prizes worth: This year's Nobel prizes will each be worth four million Swedish crowns (\$656,000), an increase of more than 30 per cent, the Svenska Dagbladet newspaper reported on Sunday.

Stig Ramel, managing director of the Nobel Foundation, said the rise had been made possible by good profits from investments in property and securities. The prizes were worth three million crowns (\$492,000) in 1989. (Reuters)

Socialists jeer: French Socialist militants jeered and catcalled their leaders rowdily Saturday at a party congress that set aside discussion of social problems to concentrate on Machiavellian infighting among rival factions jockeying for power.

Early summer

LONDON, March 18, (Kunz): Britain is currently enjoying an early taste of summer, with the warmest March weather for 22 years.

Weathermen attribute the unseasoned sunshine to a large area of high pressure hanging over central Europe, which is causing warm air to circulate direct from the Sahara.

Roads in the south of England were crowded yesterday, as Britons flocked to the coast, and in London, the parks were packed as people in the capital basked in temperatures in the 70s.

The Socialists, meeting until Sunday at the Breton city of Rennes, are riding on the crest of a wave of successes after Francois Mitterrand, with presidential elections in 1998 and Prime Minister Michel Rocard formed a resilient minority government immediately afterwards. (UPI)

350,000 watch parade: The sun smiled on the Irish Saturday and a crowd estimated at 350,000 lined Dublin's most famous thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, for what officials called the biggest St. Patrick's Day parade.

Skies were clear and temperatures were in the high 50s. Fairhead (14 Celsius) for the annual parade. This year's version featured more than 100 bands and had a European Economic Community theme to mark the current Irish presidency of the 12-nation EEC. (AP)

LANCET



Fighting flares

US-backed rebels, who have resisted appeals to lay down their arms following national elections, have clashed with government troops, and three of the rebels were killed, the Defence Ministry said in Managua.

A ministry statement said the rebels, known as Contreras, had attacked Sandinista Army troops on Friday at El Ojochito hill in Rio San Juan province, 180 miles southeast of Managua.

Among the slain rebels was a commander, Hilario Salomon Velasquez Romero, known as Karate, according to a source in Juigalpa, the main city in the region where the fighting occurred.

The source said the rebel commander's brother, Felix Facundo, was also killed.

Widow Nubia Nufiez watches with one of her four children as two friends help her stake out a lot on an empty area of government land in Managua. Many poor Managua residents are currently staking out plots of land in the hope that they will gain ownership before the change of government under legislation to be discussed this week by National Assembly. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Floods force out 1,500 people: Muddy floodwaters filled a southern Alabama courthouse, submerged a school and forced at least 1,500 people out of their homes after a levee burst Saturday under the strain of 16 inches of rain in two days.

"I have a feeling when I go back everything I own will be gone," said Debra Samuel, who fled her home near the flooded Pea River.

Also in Alabama, six people drowned when their car ran off a back road into a rain-swollen creek where a bridge had washed out, while a Georgia woman died after she apparently drove into a creek and her car was washed away.

Most of western Georgia was under flood warnings Saturday although rain had finally tapered off after a two-day deluge. In Mississippi, about 35 homes were flooded in Jackson county and several roads were washed out after 14 inches of rain fell in two days, officials reported.

No injuries were immediately reported in Elba, a town of 4,400 about 70 miles (113 km) southeast of Montgomery, where the earthen levee gave way. A.M. Rescuers in boats plucked residents from rooftops and trees as the waters rose, said sheriff Brice Paulk. (AP)

Chemical spills into Delaware river: Up to several hundred gallons of a hazardous chemical spilled from a tanker into the Delaware river during unloading Saturday morning, forcing the evacuation of about 250 people.

Five workers at a pier near the spill site were treated at a hospital for headaches and nausea from breathing the fumes of the solvent cumene, authorities said.

US coast guard Petty Officer Richard Minnich said the spill occurred when a Norwegian tanker, the Jo Rogn, was unloading the chemical and some of it slopped onto the deck. Some of the spill was contained on the ship but an undetermined amount of the chemical got into the river.

"I heard a siren and when I opened the door there was small, an odour like plastic," said Marie Saxon, who lives three blocks from the spill site. She and her three children were among the evacuees.

Cumene, often used in nail polish remover, is hazardous if inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin in large quantities, coast guard officials said. It can also pose a fire hazard. (AP)

Fire erupts at refinery: Firefighters worked Saturday night to douse a petroleum tank blaze at a refinery where an explosion six years ago killed 17 people.

There was one minor injury reported during the fire at the Unocal Corp.'s chemical division refinery, and emergency disaster officials said it could take nearly a day to extinguish the blaze.

The fire, which broke out at 6 pm (2300 GMT), was brought under control around 8:30 pm but could take up to 20 hours to completely put out, said Lynn Behringer, a spokeswoman for the region's emergency services and disaster agency.

"The flames are about 20 to 30 feet (6 metres), on the air," a neighbour, Joseph Dunk, said earlier. "They are blowing up very high because of the gusts that are really bad, and there's also really thick black smoke out there."

The burning tank held 250,000 barrels of an oil-gasoline mixture, Behringer said. (AP)

Spy satellite falling apart: A \$500-million satellite that was launched less than a month ago to spy on the Soviet Union has started falling apart, according to a Soviet report that US refused to confirm Saturday.

The report by the Novosti news agency said four orbiting fragments were spotted on March 7 that "presumably separated from the American spy satellite."

A US space agency official said such fragments can be non-essential pieces such as protective "shrouds." But the Washington Post on Saturday said members of Congress and the intelligence community were told the satellite had suffered a malfunction.

There was disagreement in Washington over the impact of such a loss of data-gathering capability, especially in light of eased tensions between the two superpowers. (AP)



Bomb, fire gut DEA office

A building leased by the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration was gutted by a large firebomb thrown through a window, authorities said. There were no injuries reported in the bombing early on Saturday.

Investigators from several federal agencies were working together to identify suspects, but refused to say whether they had any.

Television network ABC reported on Saturday night that a man indicted last week in a drug case had threatened to destroy the office in this southwestern Florida city.

Federal officers investigate the bombing that destroyed the US Drug Enforcement Administration office in South Fort Myers. (Reuters wirephoto)

Book on Pan Am bombing published

WASHINGTON, March 18. (AP) A new book has charged that West German authorities bungled and then tried to cover up an investigation of a Palestinian group they believed bombed Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland 15 months ago.

But the German operation, code-named "Autumn Leaves," is credited by authors Steven Emerson and Brian Duffy with arresting 16 people linked to the group two months before the bombing, possibly stopping plans for even worse terrorist attacks.

An explosion that investigators say originated in the luggage compartment of the Boeing 747 airliner killed all 259 people on board the Dec 21, 1988, flight from London to New York and 11 people on the ground in Lockerbie, Scotland.

British investigators have concluded the bomb was made with semtex, a plastic explosive, concealed in a radio-cassette player put aboard another airliner that began flight 103 in Frankfurt. But they have filed no charges in the case.

Emerson and Duffy's book, "The Fall of Pan Am 103," published by GP Putnam's Sons, New York, examines the bombing and its investigation by US, British, German and other authorities. Excerpts from the book appeared in today's edition of the New York Times magazine.

Emerson is an investigative reporter for US News and World Report. Duffy is an assistant managing editor for the magazine.

The authors say their conclusions are based on 250 interviews in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. Many of their findings have been reported in less detail by US television networks and European newspaper and magazine accounts.

The book says investigators were convinced within days of the crash that the bombing was carried out at the behest of Iran by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, headed by Palestinian Ahmed Jibril.

Prior to the bombing, all but two of the people linked to Jibril in Germany had been released, including Marwa Khreesat, a man previous reports have identified as the maker of bombs found by German authorities.

Emerson and Duffy's book says Khreesat may have been an informant for West German and Jordanian authorities and could also have been a double or triple agent, reporting back to Jibril. West German intelligence officials have denied that Khreesat ever worked for them.

The Germans let the alleged group go because they thought they were not a threat to West Germany and because they included their own informants, the book says.

German authorities also failed to find all of at least five bombs Khreesat produced until several months after the bombing of Flight 103, the book says. A German police officer was killed in the dismantling of one bomb in April 1989.

Until the officer's death, the Germans attempted to cover up releasing members of Jibril's group by being unco-operative with investigators from other countries looking into the bombing of Flight 103, the book says.

Bush to accept big defence cut

\$11b slash likely: Times

NEW YORK, March 18. (UPI) President Bush will accept cuts of up to \$11 billion in the 1991 defence budget, tripling an earlier proposal and coming close to figures being proposed in Congress, the New York Times reported today.

The Times, quoting unnamed senior government officials, said Bush was willing to accept cuts of \$10 billion or \$11 billion, about three times the \$3.2 billion he proposed in January.

Bush's acceptance of larger cuts is a critical development in the unfolding debate over how the government will deal with the virtual collapse of the Warsaw Pact as a military entity.

Such cuts would put the 1991 budget at about \$296 billion, unchanged from 1990, and force the Pentagon to swallow about \$10 billion in cost increases attributable to inflation, the Times said.

For the coming year, congressional Democrats and some Republicans have proposed cuts of up to \$13 billion and all savings were expected to go toward meeting the deficit reduction target set by the Gramm-Rudman Act.

Senior officials told the Times the administration was ready to acquiesce to a reduction equal to that proposed by lawmakers because it would have to greatly modify its offer to win congressional approval.

"The administration is behind the curve," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. "The fact is that we all know, beyond any possible doubt, that the Soviet Union isn't about to launch an attack."

"But their budget doesn't reflect that. If they don't move, Congress will define the issue," said McCain, a member of the Armed Services Committee.

A senior administration official who refused to be named said the cuts were made possible by the "irreversibility" of change in the Soviet Union.

"It's not perestroika or Gorbachev that has changed our needs," the official said, "but the fact that the Soviets aren't going to plough through countries that are unfriendly to them in order to get at Europe. Where we had enemies, we now have a big fat buffer in Poland and Czechoslovakia."

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said he opposed the cuts and predicted they would create

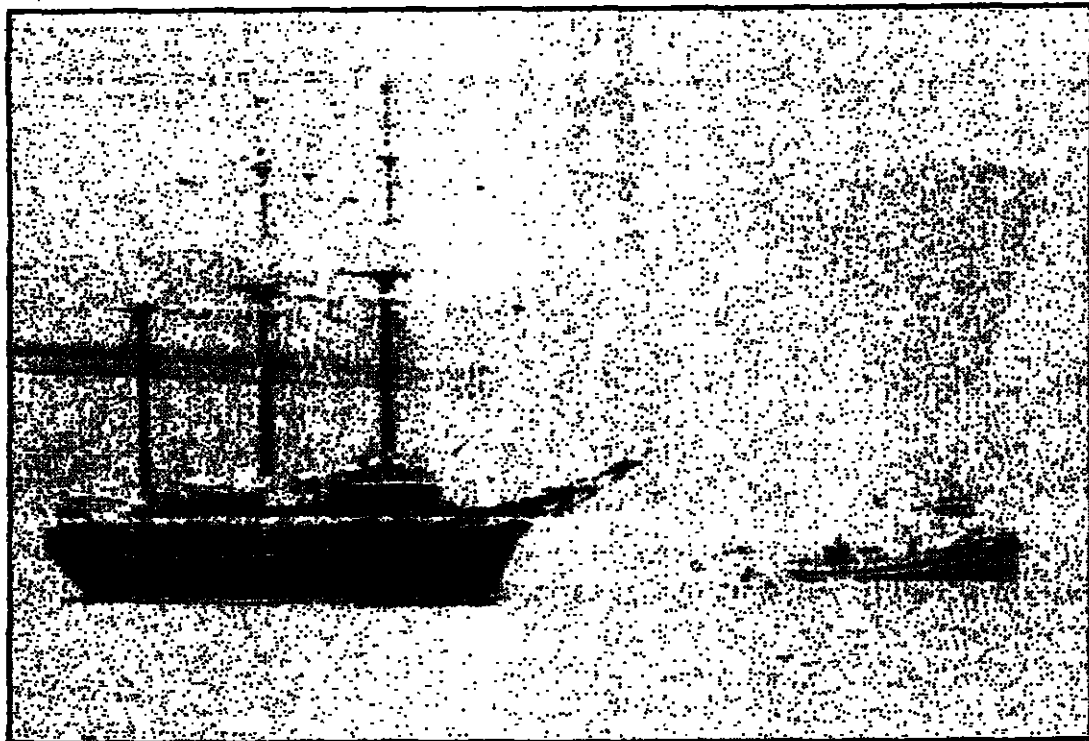
havoc with personnel and training, leaving the armed forces unprepared.

"If the cuts are at that level, and it looks as if they are going to be," Cheney said, "then there's going to be real trouble. You can't lop off \$10 billion without cutting back on personnel or on readiness. You'll end up hollowing out the forces making them undermanned, undertrained, ineffective, which is what

everyone says they want to avoid."

The legislators who most closely oversee America's defence budget reaped \$2 million in campaign contributions last year from political action committees affiliated with the defence industry.

The biggest chunks went to committee leaders and other legislators who are particularly influential on military matters.



Golden Gate Bridge

The Japanese sailing ship Kanrin Maru passes under the Golden Gate Bridge with the lantern from a fire boat as it arrives in San Francisco to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the opening of trade between Japan and the US. The ship is a replica of the ship of the same name that made that historic trip carrying representatives of Japan's Shogun to the US. (Reuters wirephoto)

Zambia rejects reforms

One-party system to stay: Kaunda

LUSAKA, March 18. (AP) Zambia's ruling party yesterday rejected proposals to create a Western-style multi-party democracy, officials said.

President Kenneth Kaunda's United National Independence Party (Unip) concluded a four-day national convention with the 1,000 delegates deciding to retain the one-party system introduced in 1973, officials told reporters.

Kaunda said the decision followed vigorous debate characterised by "anger and anguish" at times.

The fifth national convention debated political changes in East European countries that had served as models for Kaunda's party.

Kaunda, who led the British colony of Northern Rhodesia to independence as Zambia in 1964, said delegates chose to stick with the "one-party participatory democracy."

Unip has wielded power under Kaunda since independence.

In a keynote address Wednesday opening the convention in Lusaka, the

Zambian capital, Kaunda said there would be no change in his political model.

But during the meeting, held behind closed doors, some party members argued for similar reforms to those occurring in formerly orthodox socialist Warsaw Pact nations.

"The one party experience has denied every common man and woman their full rights of citizenship," Arthur Wina, a former cabinet minister and party

founder, said in a paper presented to delegates.

Zambia's economic woes, he said, "must have their origins in the political system which we are trying to run against all evidence of the need for change."

foreign countries from 1984 until his death in December, Mueller said.

The indictment, which was filed Jan 26 but remained sealed until Thursday, said Gacha's accounts were listed under corporate names of Transcontinental

Traders, Union Enterprises and First Interstate Ltd. Those accounts, Mueller said, contain between \$60 million and \$100 million.

"The big thing is to immobilise the funds and not let the druggers have them," Mueller said.

Much of the financial information was obtained when Colombian officials raided

Independence celebrations
Namibia bursting with festivities

WINDHOEK, March 18. (Reuters) Independence celebrations began in earnest today as the first of about 150 foreign delegations arrived in Namibia ahead of Wednesday's formal birth of the world's newest nation.

The normally peaceful capital of this vast desert territory is already bursting at the seams and thousands more visitors are expected in the next two days to witness the final lowering of the South African flag at midnight of Tuesday (2200 GMT).

Officials of the Namibian government which takes over from Pretoria this week said today that 147 countries had accepted invitations to the independence ceremonies, which will be hosted by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"We expect a few more last-minute acceptances — the whole world will be here," one official said.

Most of Africa's heads of state will be present to see the demise of the world's largest remaining dependency, and further-bluing members of the United Nations are already sending representatives at cabinet level.

US Secretary of State James Baker arrives tomorrow for a hectic programme of high-level contacts with other guests including Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

Baker has shrugged off criticism from Mandela and other leaders of the African National Congress of his decision to visit South Africa for talks with President F.W. de Klerk following the independence celebrations.

State Department officials said Baker's meeting with Mandela and his subsequent visit to South Africa, the highest-level US visit there since the late 1970s, served to underline Washington's enthusiasm for budding prospects for negotiation between Pretoria and black leaders.

Mandela yesterday reiterated the ANC's policy of promoting South Africa's diplomatic isolation when he returned home from a two-week foreign visit but added that he would be willing to meet Baker in Namibia.

"We do not want a high-profile visit (to South Africa)," Mandela told an airport news conference.

Baker completes his Southern African tour with a visit to Zimbabwe where he will hold talks with President Robert Mugabe on ways to end the civil war in Angola.

The Drug Enforcement Administration said a Central American country it would not identify helped confiscate 1,210 pounds (550 kilograms) of cocaine bound for San Francisco on Friday.

Authorities in the same operation seized 990 pounds (450 kilograms) of cocaine 13 days earlier.



Mandela waves an African National Congress flag during an open air concert at Johannesburg's Ellis Park stadium after returning from a trip to African and European countries. (Reuters wirephoto)

Baker to visit SA

Mandela deplores wave of violence

JOHANNESBURG, March 18. (AP) Nelson Mandela yesterday deplored a wave of violence that has claimed hundreds of lives in South Africa and said growing black unrest was against the white-led government's repressive rule.

Mandela, returning home from his first foreign trip since being released from 27 years' imprisonment, said he would try to stop violence in black townships and tribal homelands.

He declined to say what measures his African National Congress would consider to restore calm.

Some 300 people have been killed in fighting in the past month in black townships and the tribal homelands. Most of the fighting has been between rival black factions.

Mandela also told an airport news conference the ANC opposed visits by foreign dignitaries to South Africa, but indicated he would meet with US Secretary of State James Baker at independence ceremonies next week in Namibia.

"If the secretary of state wants to see me, of course I'll see him," Mandela said. "But I will not meet him in South Africa."

Baker invited Mandela to meet with him in Namibia.

The US envoy then plans to go to Cape Town, where he is scheduled to meet with President F.W. de Klerk, other government officials and some black leaders.

"We do not want any high profile visits to South Africa because these can result in a lot of confusion," Mandela said.

"They suggest that President de Klerk has done something positive, something fundamental

which requires the world to review sanctions and other strategies which we have invited in order to increase pressure on South Africa."

De Klerk won praise from world leaders after he legalised the ANC and other organisations and freed Mandela from his life prison term for plotting the ANC's guerrilla campaign.

But the ANC calls for increased international pressure on South Africa's government until it dismantles the apartheid system of racial separation and white dominance.

The ANC said yesterday it would send a delegation to South Africa on April 11 for preliminary talks with De Klerk on setting up formal negotiations on a new constitution to give the black majority national voting rights.

Mandela, selected deputy president of the ANC this month, said he would lead the delegation. His position makes him the organisation's de facto leader while ANC President Oliver Tambo recovers from a stroke in Sweden.

After the news conference yesterday, Mandela attended a concert where some of the country's top musicians sang a song composed in his honour. "The People Want Mandela."

Zambia's president met privately over dinner last night with the political leader of South Africa's biggest tribe, the Zulus, officials said.

No statements were expected after the talks between President Kenneth Kaunda and KwaZulu homelander Mangosuthu Buthelezi, a state house spokesman said.

INTERNATIONAL

Berliners vote before nation ceases

EAST BERLIN, March 18, (Reuters): The first East German citizens to vote in a free election will cast their ballots before dawn today for a democratic government and a final break with Stalinism.

Kicking off a spring polling season among five countries in Eastern Europe's once monolithic communist bloc, East Germany could be voting in its one and only general election before

it vanishes from the political map. Unification with West Germany in a single German state is backed by all major parties and the great mass of the people. They differ only on the pace and terms of the merger.

Special polling stations for factory workers on night shift open at 5 am (0400 GMT) with the main polling booths following two hours later. A sunny day was forecast with tem-

peratures climbing to more than 20 degrees Centigrade (70 Fahrenheit).

Although voting by the 12.3 million electorate was not mandatory, a high turnout looked certain.

The outcome was wide open with no clear frontrunner. A three-party Conservative Alliance and the Social Democratic Party (SDP) — both proteges of West German political machine —

were each tipped in opinion polls to win about 35 per cent of the vote.

The once all-power communists could finish with anything between three and 17 per cent.

Germany was split in two after the four World War Two allies smashed Hitler's Third Reich in 1945. Under Soviet tutelage, the eastern part of the country was locked into a rigid communist state behind fortified

borders and, in 1961, behind the Berlin Wall.

The Wall crumbled on Nov 9 last year after a bloodless popular revolt. The Communist Party hardliners were swept away and reformists finally pledged a free election.

Campaigning began almost immediately. With the wealthy West German parties of Christian Democrat Chancellor Helmut Kohl

and veteran Social Democrat Willy Brandt steering conservatives and leftists into uncharted political territory.

The hustings reached a climax on Friday, giving East Germans a "pause for thought" before making up their minds.

Thousands spent a day in the sun relaxing at the park, the lake or the beer garden.

But Brandt, in a final lunge to propel the SPD to victory over Kohl's allies, carried on campaigning in three northern towns, accusing the East German Christian Democrats of being "communist stooges for 40 years."

About 90 minutes after voting ends at 6 pm (1700 GMT), the country can expect first computer projections of the result with a provisional final tally around midnight (2300 GMT).



A West German demonstrator carries an effigy of East Germany's leader Erich Honecker around its neck as he protests against the unification of the two German states. (Reuters wirephoto)

GDR: facts at a glance

EAST BERLIN, March 18, (Reuters): Here are the basic facts about East Germany, which holds its first free election today following last year's peaceful overthrow of communist one-party rule.

Population: about 16 million, including a Slavic ethnic minority of about 100,000 near the border with Czechoslovakia.

More than 2.5 million people fled to the West between 1949 and the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. Since then, about half a million East Germans have emigrated to West Germany.

Area: 108,333 square km (41,827 sq miles). East Germany borders West Germany to the west, Czechoslovakia to the south, Poland to the east and the Baltic Sea to the north.

Capital: East Berlin (population 1.2 million). Because of Berlin's special status, West Germany has not formally recognised the city's eastern sector as a sovereign capital.

Religion: The Protestant church, with some seven million members, was a crucial force in the pro-democracy movement in 1989. There are also about one million Roman Catholics.

Armed forces: East Germany is on the frontline of the Warsaw Pact and has 380,000 Soviet troops on its soil. Its own armed forces, until recently numbering 172,000, have been depleted by desertions and a reduction in the length of compulsory military service to 12 months from 18. Western experts estimate the forces could now number as few as 90,000.

History: East Germany, formally the German Democratic Republic (GDR), was founded on October 7, 1949, on territory occupied by Soviet forces after the allied defeat of Nazi Germany in World War Two. Foundation followed the creation of West Germany in the British, French and US occupation zones.

Communist-ruled until last year, East Germany's history on the East-West divide was marked by fragile co-existence with West Germany and post-war tensions over Berlin, split into sectors still officially controlled by the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

A workers' uprising over increased work quotas in East Berlin in 1953 posed the greatest early challenge to the state and was crushed on June 17 by Soviet tanks and troops.

On August 13, 1961, the Berlin Wall was born when East Germany erected a barrier of barbed wire around East Berlin, nominally to keep out Western subversive elements but in fact to stem an exodus of tens of thousands of its citizens.

Improvements in relations with West Germany brought a landmark meeting between Prime Minister Willi Stoph and West German Chancellor Willy Brandt in 1970 and signature of a basic treaty in 1972 normalising ties and travel from West to East.

A renewed exodus of East Germans to the West, coupled with a growing movement for reform inside the country, caused Honecker's downfall on October 18, 1989. On November 9 his successor Egon Krenz opened the borders to the West.



Thousands of West Berliners demonstrate against the unification of the two German states on the eve of the election in East Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)

Communists won't get more than 18pc vote: survey

Unification remains main issue

EAST BERLIN, March 18, (AP): With the pace of unification the main issue, East Germans vote for a 400-member Parliament today, in the first free elections since the country was formed in 1949.

Boosted by numerous campaign appearances and support from West German politicians including Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the East Germans wrapped up the election campaign this weekend.

As the campaign drew to a close, the country's hated secret police and reports of possible ballot fraud became a key issue.

The respected West German Allensbach Institute said yesterday that 90 per cent of some 12.2 million eligible voters were expected to take part in the balloting. Polls were open from 7 am (0600 GMT) to 6 pm (1700 GMT).

The survey said that the Conservative Alliance for Germany, an election coalition of three parties that includes the Christian

Democrats, appears to have caught up with the leftist Social Democrats.

Both parties could win about 30 per cent of the votes each, the institute said.

But the institute also said that only one-third of the 2,000 people asked in the survey had decided on who they would vote for, but that 50 per cent said they would not vote for the communists. The institute gave no margin of error for the survey.

Today's ballot marks the first free vote in East Germany's 41-year history and a full transition to democracy from the country's former iron-fisted communist rule.

It will also set the pace of unification with West Germany.

Some conservative parties urge quick unification, while leftist groups have advocated a more cautious and slower approach. All major parties support unification and agree it will come.

Volker Ruehe, the chief of

Kohl's conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), said the party is insisting on a unification process by which East Germany's soon-to-be formed states declare themselves part of West Germany.

The process is considered the most expedient way to bring the two countries together.

Many East German voters have been bewildered by the 24 slates of candidates ranging from radical leftists to arch-conservatives in a campaign marked by rancor and bitterness. Doubts about the secret police have also disturbed voters.

In the city of Erfurt, the Social Democrats, Christian Democrats and five other parties issued a warning that secret police could try to influence the results by voting several times.

In their statement, the seven parties demanded the use of fingerprints to prevent former secret police agents from voting several times today.

The secret police force, which

officials say once numbered nearly 200,000 agents and informers, was the headline communists' main instrument of controlling the nation's people. A popular revolution forced the ouster of hard-line communist leader Erich Honecker on Oct 18.

The communist-led government claims the secret police have been virtually disbanded, but many East Germans doubt those assertions.

An election commission representing all political parties has asserted that vote rigging is impossible.

Voters will choose from an array of 24 parties and groupings. Election helpers completed work on the 22,000 polling stations, which latest polls show the communists getting no more than 18 per cent.

West German television plans to give computer projections within hours of the poll-closing. Final official results were not expected before Monday.

East Germans opt for democracy

EAST BERLIN, March 18, (UPI): When East Germans went to the polls in their country's first free elections today, they undoubtedly confirmed the end of 40 years of communist rule and opted for democracy and affluence, West German style.

The electoral contest is likely to be a neck-and-neck race between the Social-Democratic Party and the Conservative Alliance for Germany, each of which can expect to garner between 30 and 40 per cent of the vote.

New Forum, which played a key role in the peaceful revolution that ousted the hardline communist leadership late last year, can expect to be even worse off than the former ruling party and is unlikely to gain any significant percentage of the vote.

A loosely organised group, New Forum defended the need for a separate East German identity, failing to respond in time to popular pressure for German reunification, on which the West German-backed parties have capitalised.

Indications are the Social Democrats will gain a slight advantage over its main opponent.

The SPD's chances further improved at the last minute, when leading Conservative candidate Wolfgang Schnur resigned after admitting he had worked for the once-feared state security police of the ousted hard-

dline communist leadership. Schnur, who had the personal backing of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, headed the Democratic Awakening, which together with the Christian Democratic Union and the German Social Union formed the Conservative Alliance for Germany.

The Social-Democrat's main candidate, Ibrahim Boehme, is confident he will become the first non-communist leader in the state's 40-year history, and probably its last before German reunification.

A tough-talking 45-year-old historian, Boehme has gained popularity for his courageous opposition to the Communist Party, which he quit in 1976. He was imprisoned for 15 months afterward.

But he still must prove himself as a politician. If he wins, he will become leader of a country unsettled by months of uncertainty and faced with the prospect of delicate reunification negotiations.

With none of the parties expected to win an outright majority, the major parties will have to join hands to form a new government.

Such a coalition could include the SPD, the Alliance for Germany and the smaller Liberal Alliance, each of which has the backing of West German political parties.



Supporters of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) cheer Willy Brandt, honorary chairman of both East and West Germany's (SPD) parties and East German SPD leader Ibrahim Boehme in Greifswald. (Reuters wirephoto)



East Germany's Social Democrat leader Ibrahim Boehme speaks at an election rally near the Polish border as Willy Brandt looks on.

Romance and beer for East Germans on eve of first free poll

EAST BERLIN, March 18, (Reuters): East Germans, unruffled at the closing of a political era, relaxed on the eve of their first free election, strolling hand in hand and enjoying their beer gardens on a balmy spring yesterday.

They showed no sign of anxiety at prospects that today's vote will lead to unity with West Germany in which their once communist hardline state will disappear as an entity. A half-hour's drive from the barracks-like apartment blocks of the inner city, courting couples stretched out on the grass in the park of Koepenick Castle, on an island strewn with crocuses in the River Spree.

On the opposite bank, in a beer garden beneath the trees, East Berliners drank mugs of Golden Pilsener in the sunshine and listened to a brass band playing oompah music.

"Why shouldn't we relax?" said Peter Michaelis, taking coffee and pastries with his wife and two boys. "Life goes on. We have to stay calm and see how the election goes."

The Alexander Wolf, a big white leisure boat, drifted lazily by on the Spree, followed by the river police in their grey-hulled motor launch.

"Everything will unfold as it should," said Gisela Stille, sharing a bench in the Castle Park with her married daughter Angelika Speda.

As long as Sunday's election was peaceful and fair, East Germans said, they were ready for whatever result it yielded, though many expressed irritation at the dominant role of West German politicians in the campaigning.

"After what we've experienced in the past few months, this is not the sort of event to make you tremble," said Speda. "It's only another little step in the developments to come."

Police battle skinheads

EAST BERLIN, March 18, (Reuters): East German police battled 200 football hooligans, including neo-Nazi skinheads, who ran amok through East Berlin yesterday, the eve of the country's national elections, the official ADN news agency said today.

The hooligans, supporters of the FC Berlin Soccer Club, smashed shop windows, chanted fascist slogans and burned an East German flag in the central Alexanderplatz, ADN said.

Three policemen were injured and two police cars damaged in the clashes, a police spokesman was quoted as saying.

Police made 16 arrests, including a West Berliner involved in the flag-burning, ADN said.

Chronology

EAST BERLIN, March 18, (Reuters): Here is a chronology of the main events in East Germany's history, from its origins to the first free elections today.

May 7-8, 1945 — Unconditional surrender of German forces ends World War Two in Europe. The country and the city of Berlin is divided into four occupation zones controlled by the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

May 23, 1949 — Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) founded in western zones with Bonn as capital.

Oct 7, 1949 — German Democratic Republic (East Germany) founded in Soviet zone as communist state with Walter Ulbricht as party leader and East Berlin as capital.

March-Sept 1952 — Stalin proposes neutral, reunited Germany. West German leader Konrad Adenauer rejects it.

Aug 13, 1961 — East Germany builds Berlin Wall to stem flood of refugees to the West. More than 80 people shot dead trying to cross the wall between 1961 and February 1989.

March 19, 1970 — West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, promoting his concept of Germany as two states but one nation, becomes first Bonn leader to visit East Germany.

May 3, 1971 — Erich Honecker takes over as party leader. 1972 — East and West Germany establish diplomatic ties, paving the way for international recognition of East Germany.

Sept 7-11, 1987 — After cancelling a trip in 1984, Honecker becomes first East German head of state to visit West Germany.

Jan 17, 1988 — Forty people arrested after they unfurled protest banners at an official rally. Others are detained and expelled from the country, including leading dissidents.

May 2, 1989 — Hungary opens its border with Austria, paving the way for an unprecedented exodus of tens of thousands of East Germans via Hungarian territory to the West.

May 7, 1989 — More than 100 people arrested in Leipzig at protest over alleged rigging of local elections.

Aug 1989 — East Germans seeking to emigrate occupy West German missions in East Berlin, Prague, Budapest and Warsaw.

Oct 7, 1989 — East Germany's 40th anniversary overshadowed by nationwide anti-government protests. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev tells Honecker: "Life punishes those who delay."

Oct 18, 1989 — Honecker resigns, replaced by protégé Egon Krenz, who promises reform. Anti-communist protests continue.

Nov 9, 1989 — Following series of government crises, East Germany opens Berlin Wall in desperate bid to placate people.

Nov 13, 1989 — Reformist communist Hans Modrow appointed prime minister, his government approved five days later.

Feb 1, 1990 — After talks with Gorbachev, Modrow offers plan for German unity, reversing previous opposition.

March 14, 1990 — Four World War Two allies and the German states open talks on security aspects of German unification.

March 18, 1990 — East Germany's first free elections.

LOBETAL, East Germany, March 18, (AP): A pastor's family who suffered under communist rule now receives threats for taking in the ousted hard-line leader. But they say they have a compelling reason for hosting the ailing, disgraced Erich Honecker.

"We have a statue of Christ here, and underneath is the biblical inscription, 'come to me, all those who are tired and downtrodden,'" said Sigrid Holmer.

Sigrid and her husband, Lutheran minister Thomas Holmer, provided a haven on Jan 30 after no one else would take in Erich and Margot Honecker.

Only five months ago, the Honeckers were cheered by millions of East Germans. But after their downfall, Lutheran church documents show that the army refused to let the Honeckers live at a military base, saying it could not guarantee their safety.

Mrs. Holmer said the family had received some threats since taking in the Honeckers. On Friday a coal truck driver passing by the house shouted "kill the guy," and then drove off.

Honecker, 77, who was toppled by a popular revolution in October, faces trial on high



An election official shows the first voter's empty ballot box at a polling station in the Trampow district. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hostages may be free early next year

NICOSIA, March 18 (AP): A senior Iranian official said in an interview published today the Western hostages in Lebanon could be freed within 10 months.

Ali Mohammad Besharati, first deputy foreign minister, told the Tehran Times newspaper, "I can say that all the hostages may be released by next January."

Besharati's statement is the latest in a series about the hostages from ranking officials and the government-run media in Tehran.

A moderate faction led by President Hashemi Rafsanjani says the hostage issue is moving toward a solution, while a radical faction argues against releasing

them.

The 18 Western hostages are believed held by Shiite Muslim groups loyal to Iran, but thought to be more loyal to the radicals than the moderates. The hostages include eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

Besharati, who visited Lebanon recently, said he believes chances for a hostage release are better than ever.

"I saw the situation there," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "And you know nothing is secret in Lebanon. On the basis of my observations I can say the chances for freedom for the hostages are

brighter than at any time before."

The official said he did not expect all the hostages to be released at one time.

He also said Iran has no direct link to the kidnappings.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, as it has been repeatedly said, is against the philosophy of hostage-taking and Tehran has no direct or indirect role in this matter," Besharati said.

"Many countries believe that we in Iran have spiritual influence in Lebanon," he said. "They also believe that we can use the spiritual influence for freedom of the hostages."

An advance copy of the interview with

the English-language daily in Tehran was sent to the Associated Press. The same paper in two recent editorials called for releasing the hostages as an Islamic and humanitarian action.

Besharati said Israeli attacks on Lebanon had twice prevented hostage releases — one was an unspecified attack on Muslim positions in south Lebanon two years ago and the second was the July 28, 1989, kidnapping of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid.

"I think if these two incidents had not taken place, by now the hostages would have reached their homes," the Foreign Ministry official said.

Israeli President holds meetings on new government

Shamir, Peres vie to lead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 18, (Agencies): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir vied with sacked vice-premier Shimon Peres to form a new Israeli government today after their coalition collapsed over proposed peace talks with Palestinians.

At separate meetings, Shamir's right-wing Likud and Peres's dovish Labour asked President Chaim Herzog for authority to form a new

government with each claiming it could command support from 61 of Parliament's 120 members.

In the spreading political turmoil, Immigration Minister Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz quit the religious Shas Party in protest at its bringing down Shamir on Thursday in the first successful no-confidence vote of Israel's 42-year history.



Former US president Jimmy Carter (left) and Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Qassem discuss prospects of peace in the Middle East on Saturday. Amman is the third leg of Carter's tour in the region which will also take him to Israel and Tunis. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jordan role reaffirmed

Carter for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue

AMMAN, March 18, (Agencies): Former US president Jimmy Carter today reaffirmed Jordan's key role in the Middle East peace process and said he favours an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue as the next step in efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Carter, who brokered the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, was apparently seeking to ally Jordanian fears, voiced privately by senior officials in Amman, that the kingdom was being edged out of the peace process.

"There's no way to proceed in any substantive way toward peace without Jordan being deeply and intimately involved," Carter told a news conference before leaving for Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The former president, on his third visit to the Middle East since leaving office in 1981, said he believed the Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel offered the "framework or guideline" for peace in the region.

Jordan, which renounced all territorial claims to the West Bank in July 1988 to make way for the Palestine Liberation Organisation to act on behalf of the Palestinians, has been sidelined since the PLO recognised Israel and renounced terrorism in November 1988.

Roughly half of the 3.1 million residents of Jordan, which ruled the West Bank from 1950 to 1967 when it was captured by Israel, are of Palestinian origin.

King Hussein, along with most Arab leaders, rejected the Camp David treaty and called for an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict under United Nations auspices with the participation of all parties involved, including the PLO.

Carter said the US proposal for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue made by Secretary of State James Baker III last year was "compatible with the Camp David accord."

He pointed out that the Egypt-Israel peace treaty was the only legal document endorsed by the Israeli government and parliament, the United States and Egypt as a basis for peace in the Middle East.

Carter said today he hoped for a decisive win by one party in the race to form a new Israeli government.

"In my judgement the peace process is probably better if there is a clear definition in the political arena in Israel of which party is responsible, which party is in charge," he told a news conference in Amman.

Israelis balk at buying missiles

WASHINGTON, March 18, (AP): The United States is trying to sell Israel a sophisticated anti-missile defence system, but the Israelis are not sure they want to buy.

The case reflects the impact that the reduced Soviet threat in Europe is having on thriving US defence manufacturers.

Usually, Israel is the one pressing the United States to sell it weapons systems. This time, the Defence Department and the Raytheon Co. of Lexington, Massachusetts, are the ones doing the pressing.

Raytheon manufactures the Patriot, a land-based missile system originally designed to shoot down aircraft. Several years ago, Raytheon reconfigured the system so it also could shoot down medium-range missiles.

Israel could use the weapon to respond to a growing threat from vastly increased missile arsenals in the Arab world. Israel is especially worried about chemical warheads which two of its most implacable enemies — Syria and Iraq — reportedly have.

The \$100-million Patriot package comes equipped with a radar to detect and track targets and a command centre to issue firing instructions to the missiles.

In an annual report of possible arms sales for fiscal year 1990, the State Department informed Congress that Israel may buy the Patriot. Undersecretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz discussed details of the sale on a visit to Israel in January.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney told young American Jewish leaders several days ago that discussions about the Patriot sale were under way.

But sources close to the deal say Israel is far from sold.

"There's still a long way to go toward a possible purchase — I say possible and not necessarily probable," said one source who spoke on condition of anonymity. He said a decision is not expected for several months.

In Israel last week, a military official said the Patriot "only gives limited solution to the missile problem, so we don't intend to buy it at this stage."

"We are looking at other systems," the official said, while declining to elaborate.

Israel's dilemma is the cost versus the threat. For the \$200 million the United States is asking for two Patriot systems Israel would need, it could produce the next generation of an anti-missile missile, known as the Arrow.

The Arrow programme is a component of the strategic defence initiative, the space-based defence system being developed by the United States, which the US Defence Department has farmed out to Israel for research and development.

Two drivers, an Israeli and a Palestinian go on trial in Cairo tomorrow on charges they introduced an Egyptian woman to a Mossad agent who offered her "huge amounts of money" to spy for Israel.

Court papers charge that the Israeli, Egyptian-born Ibrahim Sabah Arada, and Palestinian Awad Monssa Thabet Zareh, both 35, collaborated in their alleged crime with a man identified only as Abu Haroun, an officer in Israel's Mossad secret service.



Two Christian children search in the rubble in front of a sand barricade in battered east Beirut. Battles between rival Christian forces resumed in north Beirut sending civilians into underground shelters. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ibrahimi in Beirut: car bomb defused

New bid to resolve crisis

BEIRUT, March 18, (Agencies): Arab trouble-shooter Lakhdar Ibrahimi discussed with Syrian-backed President Elias Hiriawi and Prime Minister Selim Hoss ways to resolve Lebanon's deadlocked political crisis, official sources said today.

They said Arab League envoy Ibrahimi, who arrived in Beirut yesterday, met separately with Hiriawi, Hoss, house speaker Hussein Husseini and several political and religious leaders.

Official sources said the talks focused on helping Hiriawi extend his authority to the Christian enclave, where troops under General Michel Aoun and the rival Lebanese Forces (LF) militia have been battling for control.

Ibrahimi represents the Arab League committee of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria formed to seek an end to the Lebanese crisis. He scored his biggest diplomatic success last September when he negotiated a ceasefire that halted six months of fighting between Aoun's 15,000 troops and Syrian forces.

Meanwhile, a car bomb was defused near a Syrian army base in Muslim west Beirut today as rival Christian forces battled with artillery and tanks in mountains north of the city, shattering a shaky two-week-old ceasefire in their mini-war.

Police reported that a driverless navy blue Audi

Sedan packed with 60 kilograms (132 pounds) of explosives was rolled down a street leading to the wrecked Commodore hotel with its motor and lights off before dawn.

"But it veered slightly to the left and hit a sandbag position on a road intersection about 20 yards (metres) from the commodore and luckily failed to go off," said a police spokesman.

He said the target of the attempted bombing was almost certainly the hotel, where about 100 Syrian soldiers are quartered.

The seven-storey hotel was for years the main base of Western correspondents covering Lebanon's civil war before it was wrecked in 1987 in fighting between rival Muslim militias.

The building is across the street from a seven-storey block housing the Beirut offices of the Associated Press, the US CBS and NBC television networks, the British Broadcasting Corp. and Kuwait's Al Qabas daily.

The police spokesman said bomb disposal experts established that the explosives were set to detonate at 4 am (0200 GMT), but they could not determine why the timing device failed to function.

The car bomb remained undetected for more than two hours, until Syrian sentries began patrolling the areas at 6 am (0400 GMT), the spokesman added.

Iran needs \$9b to rebuild towns, villages

NICOSIA, March 18, (Reuters): Iran needs more than \$9 billion to rebuild towns and villages damaged in the Gulf war, Iran's top reconstruction official said yesterday.

Vice-President Hamid Mirzadeh said obstacles to reconstruction included acute shortages of manpower, money and transport.

Speaking a week after parliamentary speaker Mehdi Karrubi criticised the slow pace of reconstruction, Mirzadeh appealed to parliament to increase his budget.

"The speed of reconstruction depends on the budget. Unfortunately, the parliament's planning and budget committee has halved the reconstruction allocation demanded by the government," he told Iranian television.

The allocation, included in the budget for the next Iranian year beginning on Wednesday, is being debated in parliament.

Mirzadeh said his agency had built or repaired 118,000 houses and service buildings in the 19 months since a ceasefire ended fighting with Iraq.

He said the agency needed another \$1 billion in foreign exchange and 580 billion rials (\$8.2 billion) in Iranian currency to complete its task.

Repairs in 20 cities bombed in the eight-year war and 38 towns near the war zone had been completed, Mirzadeh said, and work had begun on seven remaining areas, including the devastated port of Khorramshahr and the oil city of Abadan.

Saddam confers with King Fahd

HAIFA, EL-BATIN, March 18, (Kuna): Visiting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein held a meeting last night with Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz on a number of issues topped by their bilateral relations.

According to the Saudi Press Agency, the talks also discussed developments in the area and threats against the existence of the Arab nation.

The Iraq-Iran dispute, it added, was reviewed in talks between the two leaders and the two agreed that Iran's "rejection stance to serious action" was unhelpful towards reaching a settlement in the region.

Among other things, the two Arab leaders discussed the Palestinian issue with all its dimensions including the emigration of Soviet Jews to Arab occupied lands, SPA asserted.

The talks were attended by Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Maksoud raps Mitchell

AMBASSADOR to the United States Clavia Maksoud lashed out at the Senate majority leader for criticising President Bush's statements on occupied east Jerusalem and accused him of playing "partisan politics."

Maksoud, who is also the League's observer at the United Nations, told Kuna in a statement, "Senator Mitchell cannot be ignorant of the vital issues involved nor should he ignore them." (Kuna)

Qichen arrives in Bahrain: Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Bahrain from Abu Dhabi on Sunday on the third leg of a Gulf tour for talks with officials on regional issues and bilateral relations.

The Gulf News Agency quoted Qian as saying on arrival the setting up of diplomatic relations last year "marked a new era in friendship and co-operation between the two countries." (Reuters)

Egypt-Yemen talks: The Egyptian-Yemeni supreme committee will convene a meeting in Sanaa March 23 to discuss means of developing bilateral relations, it was revealed in Cairo on Sunday.

Egyptian diplomatic sources told Kuna that Egyptian Premier Atef Sidki will chair Egypt's delegation to the two day meetings.

He added the committee will thoroughly study means of strengthening political and economic relations and the possibility of developing trade exchange and benefiting from the Egyptian expertise in fields of industry, agriculture and culture in North Yemen ventures. (Kuna)

Iran frees convicts: Iran has pardoned or commuted sentences on 119 convicts tried by revolutionary courts in four cities, the Iranian news agency Irna said on Sunday.

Irna, monitored in Cyprus, said supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered the pardons to mark the Iranian new year which starts on March 21. (Reuters)

Free circulation pact: Ministers from the five countries of the Maghreb Arab Union have agreed on a document providing for free movement of citizens among their North African nations.

The document, signed at the end of the ministers' meeting Saturday night, will be presented to the conference of heads of states in Algiers next July for final approval. (AP)

Lichal in Cairo: Austrian Defence Minister Robert Lichal arrived in Cairo Saturday on an eight-day visit to Egypt, during which he discusses ways of bolstering bilateral military co-operation.

Lichal will hold a round of talks on Sunday with his Egyptian counterpart Youssef Sabri Abu Taleh, expected to centre on trading expertise technological knowledge in the field of military training and production. (Kuna)

Rushdie must die: Iran's top judge repeated today that the late Ayatollah Khomeini's order to kill British author Salman Rushdie had to be carried out.

"The verdict issued by his eminence the leader must be implemented and cannot be revised," Mohammad Ali Yazdi told a news conference reported by Tehran Radio. (Reuters)

FIS demands dissolution of Algerian Parliament

ALGIERS, March 18, (Reuters): Algeria's fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) yesterday demanded the dissolution of Parliament ahead of local elections scheduled for June.

FIS spokesman Abbasi Madani told a news conference the elections, the first multi-party poll in 30 years, were of dubious legitimacy as long as Parliament was run by the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

But Madani said his party, widely considered the country's strongest opposition force, would participate in the elections as long as Parliament did not enact "repressive" laws.

"We doubt the legitimacy of the town and provincial elections as long as they are not preceded by National Assembly elections," Madani said.

"The FIS demands the dissolution and re-election of the National Assembly. This does not contradict its entry into the town and provincial elections."

Since moves toward multi-party democracy last year, Parliament has voted sweeping political and economic reforms and is now studying an amendment to the electoral law designed to introduce greater proportional representation.

Secret US-Syria talks

DUBAI, March 18, (AP): Syria will demilitarise the strategic Golan Heights if Israel withdraws its troops from the territory captured in 1967, the government-owned Al Bayan daily reported today.

That was the outcome of talks between the United States and Syria on the Middle East peace process and Western hostages held in Lebanon, the daily said.

"The paper, which did not say where or when the talks took place, said they were 'secret and high-level.'"

Al Bayan quoted unnamed sources as saying: "Syria expressed readiness to agree to demilitarisation of the Golan if Israeli troops withdrew."

The Golan issue will soon be discussed by US Secretary of State James Baker with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, the paper added.

The Golan issue has been one of the main stumbling blocks in efforts to find a Middle East settlement.

But in recent months, the Syrians, plagued by economic woes and political isolation, have been moving back into the Arab mainstream.

A weakening of Soviet support for Damascus, for long Moscow's main Arab ally, in recent months amid liberalising reforms has also helped nudge Syria toward greater moderation.

Damascus restored relations with Egypt in December, ending a 12-year rift caused by Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.



Ireland's State Minister for Defence, Vincent Brady (right) shakes hands with Lebanon's counterpart, Albert Mansour on Friday after arriving at Beirut airport. Brady said his country was still hoping Irish hostage Brian Keenan would be freed soon along with other foreign hostages. (Reuters wirephoto)

Morocco

Blind stage hunger strike

RABAT, March 18, (Reuters): A hundred blind Moroccans are staging a hunger strike at a Rabat mosque, demanding the chance to learn and earn.

They sat in the central courtyard of the Sid Al Ghandor mosque today holding placards listing 17 aims.

One of them told Reuters the demonstration began on Thursday and would continue until the authorities promised to examine their grievances.

They want special facilities for the blind in the education system, school books in Braille and audio libraries.

No official figures are available for the number of blind in Morocco.

Afghan president scrambling to shore up shaky political position

KABUL, March 18, (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah is scrambling to shore up his political position badly shaken by the March 6 coup attempt in Kabul spearheaded by rebel air force pilots.

In a blunt televised address to mujahedeen field commanders this week, Najibullah tried to paint his implacable foe, hardline guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, as their worst enemy.

He said coup leader Shahmawaz Tanai, his now sacked defence minister who was last seen by reporters in a cave hideout in Logar province about 50 km (30 miles) south of the capital, had joined forces with Hekmatyar.

"Gulbuddin and his treacherous group

intend to weaken other opposition grouping and make himself champion of the race," the official Bakhtar News Agency quoted Najibullah as saying.

"With my Islamic and Afghan voice I say loudly, 'resist with all your might against them. Topples the national traitors and killers of your sons,'" he said in the appeal to guerrillas who are nominally allied with Hekmatyar in the Pakistan-based Afghan opposition.

Tanai has failed to win support from the other six guerrilla groups based in Pakistan.

Najibullah, attempting to exploit tribal and political differences plaguing the opposition Islamic rebels, said in his speech that men of Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-

Islami has attacked and killed other mujahedeen recently in six Afghan provinces.

The mujahedeen appear to have made significant gains in the battle for Khost, a small garrison town about 160 kms (100 miles) southeast of Kabul and commanding one of the roads leading to the Afghan capital.

Mujahedeen forces captured the village of Tanai and two other security posts in Khost district which the guerrillas have been trying to seize for months, Bakhtar News Agency reported at the weekend.

The village of Tanai is also the family home of the coup leader.

Government troops repulsed a heavy attack on Jalalabad this week, the news agency said. Mujahedeen have been trying

to take the city east of Kabul for over a year and make it the capital of their interim government.

The March 6 coup coincided with the first anniversary of the Soviet-made Scud missiles and to warplanes heading east and south to the battlefields in Khost and Jalalabad over the past several days.

The government on Saturday said trials would begin soon for those arrested in the "Shahmawaz-Gulbuddin coup plot."

Diplomats in Kabul estimate about 100 people have been arrested so far.

Najibullah has promoted 52 officers to the rank of general since the coup in an effort to create a military leadership he can trust.

KUWAIT ... GULF

State budget draft to be ready in May

Higher committee meets

THE higher committee for the state budget held a meeting recently under the chairmanship of finance undersecretary Abdul-Mohsen Al Hanif. The committee consisted of senior officials from Ministries of Planning and Finance and the Civil Service Commission.

Undersecretary Hanif said the committee discussed a work paper submitted by a

special team to develop and follow up general frame of the state budget in order to prepare for the state budget of fiscal year 1991/92 and the following years. He added that the team submitted a time programme for preparing the budget of ministries and government authorities and establishments.

He added that the work paper of the

team connected the state budget with Five Year Plan of the state through the unification of concepts, idioms and classification specially since the budget laws will be approved at the beginning of the fiscal year 1991/92.

Connection

He added that preparing of the state budget will start in March every year to

determine the economic and social developments during the fiscal year. The higher committee of the state budget will study the draft budget in May and then submit its recommendations to the finance minister. Later the draft budget will be submitted to the Council of Ministers and Higher Planning Council for study and approval, he said.

Medical services for forces being upgraded

Kuwaiti medics urged to join in

THE inauguration of the Armed Forces Hospital is going to usher in a new era in medical services for the military, the Director of Medical Services Dr. Rashid Al Amiri has been quoted as saying.

The 260 bed armed forces hospital cost around KD17 million and has been designed to serve the Ministry of Defence and Kuwait Army personnel, Amiri said.

In an interview with a local daily Dr. Amiri described the new Armed Forces Hospital as a daring measure aimed at upgrading the quality of medical services provided to the military. He further added that the hospital will constitute the outset of a qualitative shift in services.

Speaking of the priorities of military medical service, Dr. Amiri said that such a service will concentrate on field medical support, and improving and developing medical services for the three services i.e. the army, navy and air forces.

He added that the department was studying the encouraging of scientific research to be commenced with medical services with concentration on clinical services and field medical services to be extended to the three services.

He disclosed that the Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber is paying particular attention to this issue. He further added that the minister has called to pay more concern to national medical cadres stressing the importance of prequalifying these cadres through the organising of training courses, seminars and medical workshops.

Dr. Amiri said that the ministry is paying material incentives to Kuwaiti doctors as well as to those working in the allied medical services. He said the Armed Forces Hospital still requires medical and nursing staff, and added that preparations were currently underway to bring in physicians from Britain and Sweden. He described this move as an imperative and urgent need.

He added that the minister of defence has confirmed the importance of the provision of specialists and consultants for the Armed Forces Hospital. He added that the hospital had hosted several well known consultants from advanced countries to treat rare and chronic cases.

Meanwhile, the Director of the Armed Forces Hospital Colonel Dr. Abdurrahman Al Naseem urged Kuwaitis in the medical

area to join the military medical service. He added that this move is considered as an open invitation to all Kuwaitis qualified in the medical field to join the Armed Forces Hospital. He described the hospital as a modern hospital with state-of-the-art equipment and modern medical supplies.

Speaking of the department and pathological services, Al Naseem said that the main divisions at the hospital have been increased such as the surgical general medicine and orthopaedics. Apart from the above, the official said, the hospital is grouping a number of specialities such as chest diseases, infectious diseases, digestive diseases, anaesthesia, intensive care, dermatology, venereal diseases, eye surgery in addition to plastic surgery, brain and nerve surgery, urethral, dental and ENT in addition to the outpatient clinic.

Apart from the above, the hospital groups several allied medicine divisions including: ray units, radiology, oncology, laboratory and physiotherapy. Other facilities to be constructed at the hospital include a supermarket, club for the hospital employees and accommodation for the hospital's technicians.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah received this morning Sheikh Jaber Al Ali.

Mishari leaves

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) Chairman and Managing Director Ahmad Al Mishari today left here for Tunis and London respectively at the head of a KAC delegation.

Mishari told Kuna prior to his departure that the aim of his visits is to discuss boosting co-operation between KAC and Tunisian Airlines in addition to attending inauguration of a new supply unit for Marriott Company for Aviation Services in London.

Sabah for Namibia

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed left the Omani capital yesterday heading for Namibia, after attending the EEC-GCC meeting.

Sheikh Sabah will be attending the inauguration ceremonies of Namibian President Sam Nujoma.

Czech festival

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): Kuwait Cine Club will hold Tuesday a week-long festival for the Czechoslovak cinema displaying five long narrative films and 12 other short ones.

The Cine Club, in a press statement today, said that the week is being organised for the first time in co-operation with the Czechoslovak embassy in Kuwait and will include the latest production of Czechoslovak cinema for children and animated cartoon films.

A competition will be held during the festival which will last until March 25 and a prize will be awarded for the best article written in Arabic on the week and its activities from the audiences.

Quran recital

KUALA LUMPUR, March 18, (Kuna): Kuwait is among some 30 countries which have been invited to participate in the Malaysian-sponsored international Quran reading competition, beginning here Wednesday.

The five-day competition to be officially opened by the paramount ruler, the Yang Di-Pertuan in an annual affair in this country.

In conjunction with the competition, an international seminar aimed at ensuring a proper recital of the Quran will be held at the Islamic Centre here tomorrow.

Simultaneously, an exhibition on science and the Quran will also be held.

A spokesman for the organising committee said today all is set for the occasion.

He said five working papers will be presented at the two-day seminar to be attended by 800 people, including participants and judges of the Quran reading contest.

He added this will be the first time the Quran reading competition is held outside the fasting month of Ramadan.

KNPC report

THE Chairman of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Ahmed Al Mutair has been quoted as saying that the company's activities for 1988/1990 embodied the optimum utilisation of the company's refineries and gas plant.

In his introduction to the company's annual report, the official said that the most prominent performance of the company during 1989 is represented in the inauguration of Mina Abdullah Refinery Modernisation Project which was patronised by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

Official talks
BAGHDAD, March 18, (Kuna): The visiting Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Suleiman Majid Al Shabien began official talks with Iraqi officials yesterday.

Talks, during his visit, will tackle bilateral issues of mutual concern and ways of enhancing them.

Shabien, delivered a message from Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber to Iraqi Premier for Economic Affairs Sadoon Hamadi.



Paaet technology course

A course on Training Technology held by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training for a number of Defence Ministry officers from March 3 to 14 has wound up its activities.

The concluding ceremony was attended by the deputy director-general of Paaet Hmoud Al Mudar and the head of scholarship and courses in the Kuwaiti Army, Staff Col. Qasem Ghloom.

The scientific co-ordinator of the course Dr Ahmad Bo Zabar said that the course was aimed at training the participants in the use of modern technological equipment used in the field of training, pointing out that the course included theoretical and practical lectures.

The main subject of the course centred on the use of computer technologies computer-aided systems, computerised video projection and others in training activities.

Ensure protection for maids, say academics

THE struggle between maids and their employers is said to be a natural result of differences between the interests of both sides, according to social and education professors at Kuwait University.

On the issue of maids, they said that Kuwaiti law always sets aside maids as the only ones that should be accused. They described maids offices as slave dealers... They also stressed that the maid population is human with feelings and should be treated as such. They called for root resolutions demanding laws in order to ensure protection for this group.

Dr Abdul Wahab Al Zaferi from the Social Studies Department at the Arts College of Kuwait University said that the maids phenomenon is not a new one in Kuwait and that the truth lies behind the maids trying to understand the norms of the new society they are brought into. He added that it is natural that differences and disputes will arise between maids and their employers due to the different interests of both sides.

He indicated that maids in the past were only employed by specific families but, now maids are employed in households at all levels and since many parents are unable to deal with their children, they find it even harder to deal with housemaids.

Studies

He said that statistics indicate that 72 per cent of inmates at the women prison are originally maids. He added that Kuwaiti law serves Kuwaitis on the account of others. This puts maids on the wrong side of the law at all times. He said that unfortunately there are no scientific studies conducted on the reaction of maids adding that most people think that

maids are weak humans and are incapable of avenging themselves.

Dr Abdullah Al Lanqawi from the Social Studies Department stated that maids in Kuwait are treated unfairly by the law. He added that most maids problems usually occur in households where parents or employers belong to the uneducated group.

He described most maids offices in Kuwait as slave shops. He indicated that most maids tend not to tell the truth about their ages in order to enter the country and find a job. As a speedy resolution to this problem, he proposed that the government should impose taxes on employers adding that if a law is to be implemented it would force many families to do without maids.

He added that housewives are incapable of taking care of their households and this would be one reason why the government should provide a replacement for maids in the form of childrens nurseries and day care centres.

Resolution

On the other hand, Dr Salem Sarri indicated that a root resolution should be adopted in order to counter the issue. He said that the ease with which maids are brought into the country is the main reason behind the large number of maids. He added that due to the low salaries granted to maids estimated at an average of KD30 per month made it easier for many families to afford having a maid inside the house. He suggested that more restrictions should be implemented on bringing maids to the country including setting limits for their salaries. He added that special laws should be adopted to ensure protection for maids.

Soviet to lecture on perestroika in Kuwait

MOSCOW, March 18, (Kuna): Renowned Soviet critic Yegene Sidrov is to visit Kuwait by end of March to deliver lectures on cultural and artistic impact of perestroika on the Soviet Union.

Sidrov, in an interview with Kuna, said that contacts between men of letters in his country and Kuwait were still at the early stage and pointed out that a collection of Gulf short stories have only recently been published in Russian under the title "Winds of the Gulf."

He explained that his visit to Kuwait, which comes at the invitation of the Kuwaiti league of men of letters, further targets discussing issues of the union of Afro-Asian writers.

Sidrov, who is heading the Gorky Institute for Literature and is the deputy secretary-general of the Afro-Asian Union, asserted the importance of keeping the union remote from hegemony of any country.

Limits

He set the condition that the union should avoid falling captive to financial donations from Moscow or other capitals.

He underlined necessity of directing the union's activities to reacting to the concerns of the member countries' writers but underscored that the writers should have their say in a number of political questions as well such as the Palestinian intifada and the just Palestine cause.

Speaking of the union's literary publication "Lotus", Sidrov said that it will be soon published in four languages Arabic, Russian, French and English.

He expressed the opinion that the magazine should cover the concerned countries cultural and social life and not limit itself to printing artistic articles that are not read by anyone.

Praising the PLO's assistance to the magazine, he said that Lotus should further discuss cultural differences, noting that the magazine's headquarters would be moved from Tunis to Cairo.

Sidrov, who wrote a number of books on literary criticism, said that perestroika, or the policy of restructuring in Soviet Union as introduced by President Mikhail Gorbachev, had led to releasing a number of works of art that had been banned under the previous regulations.

Safe investments being looked into

THE deputy director-general of the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (Pama) Abdul Mohsen Abdullah Al Mohjem has said that the Pama budget for 89/90 reached KD4,061,000, adding that the Pama's mainline activity is to invest minors' money in profitable and legal enterprises and to deposit the returns in the accounts of clients under its wing.

He pointed out that the first priority of operation was to find the safest investment opportunity possible to employ the money in Pama's care according to Islamic law to ensure protection and growth of this money.

Mohjem said that Pama said considerable attention to the returns of money invested in leased flats and a great number of minors (clients) depended for their monthly income on this source, adding that on account of this Pama opened a special branch office in Farwaniya last year, to provide better leasing chances and another such office is currently under construction Hawally.

He said that Pama personnel would pay a visit to the family of minors seeking protection of their money and properties to find out about their social situation and recommended appropriate solution. He added that adequate studies would also be conducted of the existing financial situation of the families so that sufficient monthly salaries would be allocated, taking into account all other expenses, such as contingency money and emergency costs.

Support

He added that once the minor becomes able to support himself or finds a proper job, Pama would cease to pay him his monthly salary, adding that in the case of girls, the salary would be discontinued upon her marriage or her divorce for the second time.

He said that the situation of minors would be followed up all-round in co-ordination with the school, the department of social services at the Education Ministry as well as through regular contacts with their family members at home.

He pointed out that the newly set up follow-up and service office at the Pama would receive transactions, answer their queries and process their transactions by transferring their papers to the relevant authorities inside Pama.

Mohjem added that Pama would among other things seek to implement the will of deceased persons, follow up their transactions, collect their debts, pay their due debts, divide up inheritance among the legally-qualified heirs, sell property in response to an official request of qualified heirs, pay regular salaries to minors and others.

Jobs for expatriates now scarce

EMPLOYMENT opportunities for expatriates are particularly scarce in the public sector and same is also applicable to the private sector which has also developed all requisite specialities.

This existing scenario causes most expatriates to face problems in obtaining jobs commensurate with their qualifications and at decent wages.

A local daily interviewed a number of expatriates who are academically qualified, but have been forced due to circumstances to accept jobs not matching their specialisations and at low wages.

Haytham Qadoura, a work opportunities in the government sector are practically due to the ongoing Kuwaitisation process. He added that he spent a year and a half looking for suitable employment, but was compelled to take up a job as a shop assistant.

Abdullah Dahi, who holds a diploma in aeronautics, said he would like to find a job ticketing, reservations, shipping and travelling services although he had applied in several establishments, he has yet to receive a positive response. After two years of waiting he was reluctantly forced to accept a job at a touristic office at a very low salary.

Hani Mohammed, said both expatriates and citizens face problems in obtaining jobs though the latter have several factors in their favour, the most vital being waste.

Bahrain set to take off in space tech

BAHRAIN's reputation as one of the most advanced telecommunications centres in the world is set to reach greater heights as the island moves well on course in its development of space technology, particularly in the field of satellite communication.

A major conference on space technology was held here recently. Dr. Hamad Al Sulaiti, education undersecretary and acting general secretary of the Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research (BCSR) told about 70 delegates from the region and European nations that in view of the significant progress made so far in satellite communications, Bahrain has been able to provide the latest communication services to its residents such as live telecasts of vital events world-wide. He stated that satellite technology provides opportunities to people from different nations to "exchange knowledge" and "technical experience".

Dr. Sulaiti further commented at the conference, said to be the only one of its kind to be held in the region, that talks are being held by specialists in informatics and space technology about the possibility of developing a space communications network by the year 2000. He added that the network would be able to store huge amounts of information in space and be easily accessible to all nations on earth for improving economic growth and raising cultural standards.



Hylomar puts the seal on quality

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LANGOLITA

Sets available for all phone subscribers

Mobile telephones for rent

THE director of telegram and telephone services department at the Ministry of Communications Fadhil Abul Hassan has said that the ministry changed its policy of providing telephone subscribers with telephone sets from last January. He added that a ministerial decision was issued giving subscribers the right to a telephone set provided by the ministry.

They are not required to return the telephone set to the ministry when they cancel the telephone service. He added that subscribers can also buy these sets from the local market beside the centrally after paying ten dinars as the cost of the set. The ministry repairs and maintains the set without charge except costs of spare parts.

He however said that telephone sets imported by local companies cannot be repaired or maintained at the ministry.

Specifications

Abul Hassan pointed out that Ministry of Communications will import large quantities of the latest telephone sets during the second half of this year. These sets will be distributed to subscribers who need them. He added that the increase in number of subscribers is the reason that there is a shortage of these sets at the centrals. He added that most telephone sets sold in the local market are licensed after being inspected by engineers of the ministry. They meet the specifications limited by the ministry to avoid damaging or harming the

telephone network. Abul Hassan added that people can now get the telephone service after only one week of submitting the application at Raas Al Salmiya and Hawalli centrals. This quick service will be applied to all centrals in the country soon. It will however be applied first at Shuwaikh and Jubeil Al Shuyoukh centrals because pressure on the two modern centrals. He added that computers will be used in selecting the telephone numbers of new subscribers. This will put an end to problems on the selection of certain telephone numbers by employees of the centrals.

Abul Hassan said the ministry rents mobile telecommunications station via

satellites for people who want it against a monthly rent of KD100. The ministry has many of these stations for rent. Anyone can take the station with him on remote trips and voyages and to any country in the world. He however denied there are telephone sets that can record a caller's number. He added that there is no mobile phone set that can do so at the present time.

He pointed out that ministry took part in the Info 90 exhibit where it co-operated with international companies to display modern services like international data bank service. He added that this service enables subscribers to contact and get data from 1,200 data banks in the world by using one secret code.

Security to be stepped up in capital: Rujaib

Dud cheque cases on the increase

THE director of security at the Capital governorate Col Ahmad Al Rujaib has said that it is time shop owners were obliged by law to carry out security precautions as recommended by the Ministry of Interior to protect these establishments from theft.

Col Rujaib said that there are 40,000 shops carrying out various activities in the Capital Governorate, besides commercial banks, money exchange companies and jewellery shops.

These form heavy pressure on Capital security men and some of this protection pressure must be taken over by owners, he said.

He added that the security department at the governorate increased its patrols around the markets and commercial buildings around Kuwait City and more security precautions are under way.

Money related crimes form the bulk that are reported to police centres in the Capital besides the dealing and consuming of alcohol and narcotics. He added that dud cheque cases are on the rise in the city although theft and general misdemeanours have

shown a drop.

Col Rujaib pointed out that the Interior Ministry has asked shop owners at the governorate to install sufficient lights during the night and also install alarm systems that work when any strange person opens the locks of doors. Shopkeepers are also advised not to leave banknotes on shelves of money exchange shops after closing and not to open the money safe in front of strange people.

The ministry has called on the owners of gold and watch shops not to display gold or watches after closing time. They can keep these valuable items inside safes at night. They are also notified to notify security men about any theft reported even if it is a simple one. He added that some shopkeepers have responded to instructions but others have not.

Col Rujaib also pointed out that the governorate recorded 1,337 dud cheque cases during the second half of last year which is considered a big number. Also reported were 559 cases of dishonesty, 237 thefts in which 56

persons were accused, 15 cases of narcotics in which 37 persons were accused and 7 cases of liquor were confiscated in which 20 persons were arrested during the same period last year. He added that the problem of narcotics exists in Kuwait but methods to fight it are being developed. The committee that was set up recently and headed by the interior minister is a good proof of Kuwait's concern in fighting narcotics, he said.

He added that self-security should be supported and encouraged because it is the best method to prevent crime. He added that some companies succeeded in protecting their buildings and properties. But they should develop the performance of their security staff by training them and providing them with required equipment.

Col Rujaib added that retired military staff and civilians can be hired as security guards. He also pointed out that his department will run foot patrols in markets and important places of the Capital very soon for the first time in Kuwait.

Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

PLEASE CLARIFY: Overtime payment; break time; rest period; sick leave; overtime on rest day and official holidays — Feb 23, 24 and 25. We worked on Feb 24 in lieu of Feb 25. Was Saturday, Feb 24 not a holiday?

My contract stipulates that 15 days paid leave. Since we are on a two-year contract, the company is giving us 30 calendar days vacation. What does the labour law say on annual leave? (Query edited)

R.A.C. Abanah

ACCORDING to Kuwaiti Labour Law, Article 33, mentions that it is forbidden to work for more than eight hours, or 48 hours weekly, unless it is for reasons as mentioned in the contract. A labourer cannot work continuously for more than five hours without a one hour rest period. The rest period is not a part of the working period.

Article 34 mentions that the employer can make the employee work overtime for not more than two hours per day. And if you work extra hours, an employee is entitled to 25 per cent extra pay. If you are doing overtime and not being paid, you have the right to claim. The maximum number of working hours is eight but it is up to the employer how many hours he requires from an employee. But if the employer gives overtime work, excluding the rest period, the employee has to follow the routine in the best interests of the company.

The government had declared Saturday, Feb 24 instead of Friday, Feb 23, as an official holiday. In the private sector, Feb 24 was a working day, and Friday and Sunday were official holidays and not Saturday. If you worked on Friday or Sunday, you have the right to claim double wages. Overtime for official holidays is normally included at the end of the month for monthly paid workers, or at the end of the week.

Sick leave: an employee is entitled to sick leave if it has been recommended by the doctor. If a medical leave certificate from the company is endorsed by the doctor recommending a day of rest, the company will give the day of rest on the basis of the medical report. If the doctor recommends two to three days rest, then this will be taken into account. Without a valid medical certificate recommending rest, a company cannot give a day off

for rest. You are entitled to get 30 working days annual leave, excluding Fridays, and not 30 calendar days.

If the employer reduces the salary of the employee working on visa No. 18 without notice and he refuses to accept the resignation, can the employee send his resignation by registered post giving 15 days notice from the date of registry? Would the action be considered legal as per the Kuwaiti Labour Law?

C.P. Anand

YES. A registered notice can be sent; it will be considered as a legal notice and you can depend on it. But you must keep evidence of registration.

HOW is the pay of a monthly paid worker calculated, if he is absent for two or three days. I am given to understand that the pay the number of working hours will be divided by total salary and multiplied by the actual number of working hours put in. If this method is applied, the worker loses if the month has less than 26 working days and the company loses if the month has more than 26 working days.

Our company calculates the leave pay as 14 days is equal to 50 per cent and 21 days is equal to 75 per cent of the total monthly salary. Is the interpretation right?

Harold

THIS depends on the number of days in a month — 28, 30 or 31 days. For example, in February, there are 24 working days; in March, for example, excluding four Fridays, 27 days.

For example in January, four Fridays, there were 27 working days. The monthly salary is divided by the number of working days and the deduction would be made accordingly.

This is the wrong calculation. The leave days divided by 26 days to derive the salary for 14 days will be more than 50 per cent, and for 21 days, it will be more than 75 per cent. For example, if the salary is KD 221, divided by 26 to derive the daily salary and multiplied by the number of holidays would be more than 50 per cent salary for 14 days leave.

Indemnity on salary must be calculated by 26 working days, says the law regardless of whether you work full or part time for the same company. There is no provision of the 30 day count in

Kuwait labour law. It must be divided by 26 days. There is no other way.

IS the salary calculated on 26 days or 30 days? How much should an employee get for working on official holidays — 200 per cent plus his normal wage?

T.J.

THE salary is calculated on 26 working days.

Overtime for working on official holidays is double wages. For example, if you earn KD10 per day, you'll be entitled to KD20 — it is double wages.

I CAME to Kuwait on visa No. 18 in Feb 1986. I am working as an electrician on a farm. In Nov 1987, I went on vacation and as my visa expired, my sponsor sent a new visa and I returned April 1988. My visa now expires on April 1990. I'm looking for another job. My employer doesn't want to give a release and says that I can only work on a farm. I will complete more than three years employment by April this year. A worker can transfer to another employer after completing three years. Is it true that I cannot transfer only to a farm.

Please reply through a letter. Aurelio R. Serradilla

(We regret to inform you that individual replies cannot be given)

The transfer of residence depends on the profession mentioned in the passport. As you entered on a new visa in 1988, you don't have the right to transfer the residence as you have not completed three years employment. Due to entry on a fresh visa in 1988, the previous stay is not taken into account. And if you want to change the job, the only way is to get a new visa and re-enter Kuwait.

I AM working as a salesgirl since 1988. As I am not being paid on time, I'd like to change my job. But the managing director doesn't allow me to work outside and is not giving a release. Is it possible to change my job?

Feldi Desoza

THE rules say that an employee can't change jobs before completing three years employment. And you have not completed three years, and under the rules you are not eligible for seeking a transfer of residence. After completing the period, if the employer refuses, you can file a case and get the release.

'Pakistan exploiting Kashmir problem'

(Continued from Page 1)

"The situation in Kashmir was that a few people raised the flag of Pakistan and those people had been exploited now, given arms, and training to create that kind of atmosphere," she said, adding "that is wrong."

She said: "We don't want a war, there should never be a war provided they (Pakistan) don't instigate the programme of hatred; this could lead to more unpleasantness."

Heptullah last night ended her two-day official visit to Kuwait.

The message for the Amir, delivered yesterday, dealt with "India's viewpoint on Kashmir and the attitude of Pakistan towards it". It also touched on the developments in Namibia, Nelson Mandela's release and has opposed the Soviet-Jews settlement in occupied territories.

Heptullah said: "The Kashmir issue is an internal affair (because) it is an integral part of India." She said India would not tolerate any "outside interference".

Asked to comment on an OIC statement condemning India's handling of the Kashmir problem, she said: "No force should be used in settling the issue, the problem should be resolved peacefully, bilaterally and within the Simla Agreement with no outside interference — this is the current OIC stand."

She said the Kashmir problem must be settled within the framework of the Simla Agreement. And Pakistan must desist using hostile propaganda.

She described Kuwaiti-Indian relations as "cordial and built on a long history." A number of Kuwaitis have been running businesses in India for a long period and some are living there especially in Bombay, she went on.

Najma, who said she was personally less than satisfied with Kuwaiti-Indian bilateral relations, shared HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah's belief that economic and trade relations should be strengthened.

Crime file

Five Thais arrested for brewing liquor

SECURITYMEN in Ahmadi arrested five Thai men on the charge of manufacturing local liquor. Police learning of their activities, raided their residence and seized liquor manufacturing instruments. The five men admitted to the charges and said they were selling the liquor at KD 6 per bottle.

■ CAPITAL securitymen arrested three men for being involved in the forgery of official documents. The three Naser S. and Ali A. both Kuwaitis and Issa A., a non-Kuwaiti, were accused of forging salary certificates in the name of the first accused in order to obtain financial facilities from local companies.

The three forged salary certificates belonging to one of the ministries and made it look like it was issued for the first defendant. By presenting the forged certificate, they succeeded in obtaining many facilities from local companies.

■ THE CRIMINAL court sentenced a man to three-and-a-half years for selling only one gramme of heroin. The court also fined the convict KD 3,000. The court was told that a police officer learnt that the accused was trading in narcotics. He was issued with a warrant to apprehend him. He supplied one of his secret informers with an amount of cash and asked him to buy drugs from the suspect. He did and on the time of delivery, the police arrested the accused and found "one gramme" of heroin in the pocket of his dishdash.

The accused claimed that he was getting the heroin from another person but the court found his claims lacking enough evidence and acquitted the other one.

■ THE CRIMINAL court has ordered the imprisonment of two housekeepers (a male and a female) to three years in jail with hard labour each and subsequent deportation.

The court heard that both were caught by their employer in the act of illicit sex, and learnt from the maid, who is over 21 years of age, that her accomplice had intercourse with her on a number of occasions and that she helped him do that.

■ SECURITY investigations have led to the arrest of a man charged with peddling heroin, and subsequent search of his residence led to the retrieval of a roll of the contraband and notes of the marked detective money offered to him in return for a piece of the goods.

The court, hearing this, found the suspect guilty as charged and ordered him jailed for five years with penal servitude to be followed by deportation and ordered him to pay a fine of KD 5,000 and a customs fine of KD 100.

Swedish official

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): Swedish Foreign Undersecretary for Political Affairs Karl-Torsten Erén arrived here today on an official visit to Kuwait.

During his stay, the Swedish official will hold talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammed Al Osaime and with his Kuwaiti counterpart Suleiman Majed Al Shaheen on bilateral issues and international and regional developments.

Greek celebration

THE Greek embassy will celebrate the National Independence Day at the Holiday Inn Hotel Sunday March 25, 1990 from 19.00 to 21.00 hrs. Members of the Greek Cypriot communities are kindly requested to attend.

Cable to Premier

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today received a cable from director of the Arab Centre for Education Research for Gulf states Mohammed Al Sane', in which he extended his gratitude for the kind hospitality he received during his stay in Kuwait.

HH Sheikh Saad sent a reply cable, in which he thanked Sane' for the gesture.

Cabinet reviews bilateral messages

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): The Cabinet today held its weekly session under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Upon the conclusion of the Cabinet meeting, Planning Minister and Acting Health Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said that the council opened with reviewing a message to HH the Amir from Tunisian President Zine Elabidine Bin Ali on the outcome of the summit conference of the Arab Co-operation Council.

The council also took notice of the message from Indian Premier V. P. Singh to HH Sheikh Saad on ways to enhance bilateral co-operation and the latest international developments.

Awadi said that the Cabinet's chairman reviewed the outcome of last week's visit of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and his talks with HH the Amir on Islamic, Arab and African issues and bilateral relations.

The council then was briefed on the outcome of the visit by Belgium's heir apparent Prince Albert, who conferred with HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier, ministers and senior state officials.

Education Minister Anwar Al Noun reported to the Cabinet on his visit to Thailand last week, during which he deputised for HH Sheikh Saad at an international conference on education.

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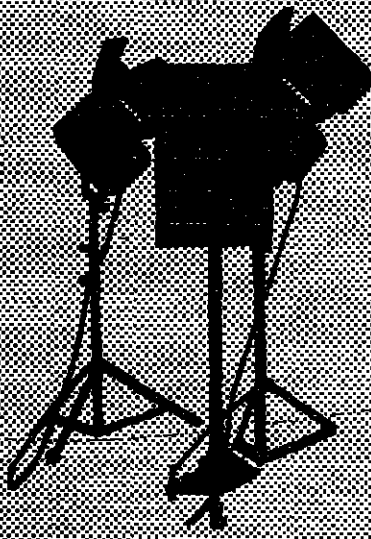
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Czech jewellery on show

Models in costumes and hair styles of the early 20th century swaying to music recorded around the same period, proudly exhibited Czech fashion jewellery Saturday night at the Meridian's Thuraya Hall.

The show that was attended by the Ambassador of the Czechoslovak Social

sist Republic to Kuwait, Thomas Strakos, was organised by Khalil Bahman Trading Establishment and Jablonex Foreign Trade Company Ltd., Czechoslovakia's main exporting body.

Glass, wooden and metal jewellery have been specialties of Czechoslovakia for

more than 250 years. More than 400 exhibited pieces depicted a wide variety of designs and colours and superior craftsmanship.

Red, pink and yellow silk flowers were paraded in baskets by models in 18th

century tracks gracefully dancing to Mozart music.

The Jablonex Fashion Jewellery Exhibition will be open until March 26 from 9:30 am to 12:30 noon and 4:00 to 8:00 pm. — Diana Abou Halder.

Municipal inspectors to get extra transportation allowance

THE acting director of Kuwait Municipality has said that the Civil Service Council has agreed to grant inspectors at the municipality KD30 a month as transportation allowance besides giving them ten dinars or 2 per cent of

value of each violation seized by them provided the violation is approved by the judicial authorities.

Amendments He added that this step was taken to encourage municipal inspectors and to compen-

sate them because they use their own cars during the inspection of shops and markets. He added that inspectors who work in remote areas will have an option of getting KD30 allowance or to get cars from the municipality instead.

Meanwhile, the shops licences controller at the municipality Ali Al Turki said that the municipality is making a study to amend the shops charter. A committee was set up to study the amendments on the charter before passing

them to the municipal committee. The amendments aim at facilitating procedures for citizens. He added that the municipality opened controls for licences and advertisements at Ahmadi, Jahra and Capital governorates. It

is also planning to open another one at Farwaniya governorate. These controls have full authorities to achieve all formalities relating to shop licences without referring to the general control at municipality, he said.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

Woe unto them that are tired of everything, for everything will certainly be tired of them — G.K. Chesterton, English writer (1874-1936).

Democracy in Jordan

From prison to Parliament

AMMAN, Jordan, (AP): A year ago, Ahmed Kofahi was in prison for criticizing the government and fired from his job as a university teacher. Now the Islamic activist is a member of Jordan's revived Parliament, which had been in virtual limbo since 1987, and is heard lambasting officials in the state radio's broadcasts of debates in the House.

Kofahi's march from a prison cell to the halls of power symbolizes the changes that have quietly transformed Jordan over the last year while the roar of democratic revolt has resounded across Eastern Europe.

"The atmosphere's different now. We have more freedom," Kofahi said in an interview. "But it's not enough."

Kofahi, like other Islamic fundamentalists and leftists who are back in Parliament after decades in the political wilderness, want tougher investigations of corruption, greater curbs on security agencies and wider social justice.

Human rights "are born before the human is born," Kofahi said. "It's not a gift from a leader or a party or an authority and not to have these rights is equivalent to death."

The winds of democratic change have swept across some other Arab countries, most dramatically Algeria and Tunisia, where the ruling factions have been shaken up and liberalized.

But Jordan is bordered to the north and east by hardline socialist states whose ruling parties brook little opposition.

Surrounding

"I'm sure the countries surrounding us are not happy about what's going on here," said Taher Masri, a former foreign minister who quit the cabinet to make a successful run for Parliament.

The reforms in this country of 3.1 million people have been more orderly and less sweeping than those that overturned leaderships in Eastern Europe.

As in Eastern Europe, popular revolt in Jordan triggered the changes. Four days of riots last April over price hikes and government haughtiness killed 10 people and shocked King Hussein into action.

Hussein, who has ruled since 1953, is giving up many powers. But he remains in control and personally popular.

In November, he oversaw Jordan's first general elections since 1967, one of the freest elections ever held in the Arab world.

The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood won the largest bloc of seats in the reconstituted 80-member Parliament despite open government criticism.

Kofahi, running on a Brotherhood ticket, won more votes than any of the other 650 candidates.

The king's new Prime Minister, Mudar Badran, faced an extraordinary parliamentary grilling over his personal finances and professional record before he won a vote of confidence.

Since April, the government has freed all detainees held without charge and dozens who had been convicted of politically related crimes, some of them violent.

The pervasive General Intelligence Department has been stripped of its frequently used powers to withhold passports, ban travel or bar employment. Radicals have been allowed to return home.

The government has promised to make officials accountable for corruption. Last week a former undersecretary of the Supply Ministry was arrested in a graft investigation.

Badran vowed to end martial law imposed 23 years ago. He has appointed lawyers to study which of the decrees that have accumulated over two decades should be abolished.

His cabinet has already transferred most classes of cases to civil courts.

Badran also promised to overturn a 1935 defense law inherited from the British mandate giving officials power to ignore many civil rights, a law now used far more widely by neighbouring Israel than by Jordan.

The government ignored its 33-year-old ban on political parties during the election campaign, and says it will legalize parties after a new "national charter" of principles is submitted to a referendum, probably this year.

Demonstrations

Street demonstrations have been allowed, but they have been few and small.

The government cancelled a 1988 decree nationalizing newspapers and returned them to their former managers, although government institutions still hold majority ownership.

"The government is not involved in any way in restricting the press," said Information Minister Ibrahim Izzedine. But many reporters complain that conservative publishers must critical stories.

Jordan's reforms are still in the process of unfolding and democracy has not meant freedom for all.

The victory of Islamic fundamentalists set back campaigns for Western-style women's rights in Jordan and encouraged closer censorship on moral rather than political grounds.

But Masri is convinced Hussein "will not retreat" from the reforms. He said the monarch could not even do so unless Parliament or other forces acted irresponsibly and turned the public against reform, as in 1957, when some deputies were implicated in a coup attempt.

Jordan's history with Parliaments dates to the 1920s. Most were weak. When they showed signs of independence, they were suspended.

But the kingdom has undergone major changes since then. A country of peasants and bedouins with only one high school in 1948, today it nearly equals Sweden in the percentage of young people who go to college or technical school.

With an educated population, Masri said: "You can't hide anything anymore."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1563 — Peace of Amboise ends first war of religion in France, with Huguenots being granted limited toleration to exercise their religion.

1711 — War is declared between Russia and Turkey.

1775 — Portuguese fleet is repulsed in attack on Monte Video (Montevideo), Uruguay.

1799 — Napoleon Bonaparte begins siege of Acre (Israel) which is defended by Turks.

1808 — Spain's King Charles IV abdicates.

1812 — Spanish Cortes passes liberal constitution under a hereditary monarch.

1861 — Maori War in New Zealand ends.

1933 — Italy's dictator Benito Mussolini proposes pact with Britain, France and Germany.

1962 — Relative calm returns to Algeria after ceasefire, ending seven years of warfare between French and Algerian nationalists.

1963 — Algeria demands that France negotiate on ending nuclear testing in Algerian Sahara.

1971 — At least 160 people perish in landslides north of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

1977 — The Congo's president Marien Ngouabi is assassinated at his official residence in Brazzaville.

1978 — Israeli army takes control of almost all of Lebanon south of Litani river.

1988 — Iraq claims its forces have overrun headquarters of Iranian-backed Kurdish guerrilla leader Jala Talabani amid heavy mountain fighting.

1989 — Muslim gunners fire rockets into Christian areas of Lebanon.

Last colonial domain in Africa

Namibia: on threshold of freedom

WINDHOEK. (Reuters): Independence fever is sweeping Namibia, where pomp, ceremony, beauty queens and rock groups will herald the final lowering of the South African flag over Africa's last colony next week.

After the hoisting of the new Namibian standard at midnight on Tuesday, United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will swear in former guerrilla leader Sam Nujoma as president of the world's newest nation.

With the exception of two tiny enclaves on the Moroccan coast ruled directly by Spain, Namibia's emergence as a sovereign nation will mark the end of centuries of colonial rule in Africa.

Festivities

The festivities will be witnessed by a score of national leaders and as many foreign ministers.

The celebrations will climax on March 24 with a pop concert featuring top acts from Jamaica, Zaire, Britain, the Soviet Union and South Africa.

For the past year, more than 4,000 troops, 1,500 police and 400 civilians from every corner of the globe have been playing midwife to Namibia's protracted birth in the costliest and most successful UN peacekeeping mission to date.

As De Cuellar watches two South African army officers haul down Pretoria's flag, he will be flanked by President F.W. de Klerk, who has ushered in significant changes in his own country this year.

Namibia's independence and proposed sweeping changes back home have enhanced South Africa's standing in the international community after years of isolation.

Namibia does not yet have its own national anthem, so independence will be played in to the tune of Nkosi Sikelel' Afrika (God Save Africa), the South African liberation hymn and national anthem of many southern African states.

A new coat of arms supported by two desert oryx with the motto "Unity, Liberty, Justice" reflects the mood of the new nation, which has adopted a constitution legal experts consider to be Africa's most liberal.

Labourers in Windhoek are scurrying to cover up roadworks in this modestly sized capital of some 150,000 people.

The city, which has only 500 hotel beds, is expecting more than 5,000 dignitaries, guests and media for the independence ceremonies. The government has taken over all hotel beds for its guests on March 20 and 21 and journalists have been consigned to sleeping carriages at the railway station.

Airport

Windhoek airport, which normally handles less than 40 international flights a week, will handle 200 aircraft in two days. Some will have to park at Grootfontein, 500 km (300 miles) from the capital.

Independence will end decades of international wrangling over the sparsely populated desert territory of some 1.4 million people, a German colony until South Africa seized it during World War I.

A UN supervised election last November was won convincingly by Nujoma's South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), which for 23 years waged a bush war against South African rule.

Swapo has adopted a policy of reconciliation with its former



Sam Nujoma... president-elect

enemies and co-operation with its political opponents, stimulating optimism in the country.

The 80,000 white minority, encouraged by pragmatic statements by Nujoma and Swapo's shedding of most of its previous Marxist ideology, are defying earlier patterns of exodus during decolonisation in

other African countries and are staying in Namibia.

All 159 members of the United Nations, except Israel, have been invited. Israel is excluded because it refuses to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a Swapo ally.

Nujoma is an old friend of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Nationalism gathers momentum

BUENOS AIRES, (Reuters): Led by a former rebel army colonel who signs his letters "God, fatherland... or death," nationalism is gaining ground in Argentina while the Peronist government of President Carlos Menem struggles for a way out of economic chaos.

Political analysts say the nationalist movement headed by retired Col Mohamed Ali Seineldin is the only political force growing consistently in opinion polls.

"Seineldin's group is growing at the expense of traditional parties," pollster Rosendo Fraga said. "Basically, he attracts the people who voted for Menem. They are not turning to radicalism or the left."

Seineldin, 56, was forced into retirement two months ago for leading an army revolt in December 1988.

Militant Catholics, former soldiers, small businessmen and disgruntled Peronists are swarming around the former commander, who once trained Manuel Noriega's Panamanian defence forces.

Younger followers paint slogans on walls saying "Seineldin is peace and order," and "Seineldin is the fatherland."

Seineldin, a Roman Catholic born to Lebanese-Druze parents, seeks to build a military-civilian coalition.

"The colonel (Seineldin) is a military leader with a political project," said the yet-untilled movement's political secretary, Enrique Graci Susini. "We want

to form a national movement with political, labour and business support to rebuild the state's power, which now simply does not exist."

Graci said that Menem might turn to the nationalists for help when he finds that his current free-market, liberal policies fail to solve Argentina's economic plight.

When Menem became president last July, prices were nearly doubling every two weeks. By September he had the monthly inflation rate down to a single digit.

His popularity plummeted, however, after Argentina fell back into hyperinflation in late December.

Recent independent surveys show Seineldin is most popular in the poverty-stricken areas where Menem won elections

in May by landslide margins.

Popularity

Although his rating is considerably lower in Buenos Aires, he has attained popularity levels comparable to those of veteran politicians and labour leaders.

"The economic crisis is pushing Argentines to the right. And as things get worse, people tend to worry only about their most pressing needs," said political scientist Luis Balcarce.

Menem plans to privatise most state-owned companies but the nationalists say that any economic activity related to Argentina's strategic interests, especially the defence, communications and energy sectors, must be under state control.

Lukyanov cautious

MOSCOW, (Reuters): The newly-elected chairman of the Soviet Parliament, Anatoly Lukyanov, firmly backs Mikhail Gorbachev but appears cautious about the pace of the Kremlin leader's reform drive.

During the parliamentary elections a year ago, he warned in a speech of "leftist attempts to stir up passions, demagogic appeals to force change, including recipes distant from our socialist choice."

Lukyanov has appeared to seek the middle ground in the pitched battles within Soviet society over the pace of reforms, but has tended to lean towards a conservative stand.

He studied law with Gorbachev more than 35 years ago and was once his senior in the Young Communist League.

Arguments

His stance in the latest contentious arguments preceding Gorbachev's election to the presidency has been to act the arbiter of parliamentary rules of order, sometimes with a smile, but often with solid firmness.

Lukyanov, 59, has held a series of posts typical of a Communist Party official on the rise which has ensured him continued close contact with the Soviet leader.

Last May, as Gorbachev's personal choice, he was elected deputy chairman of parliament.

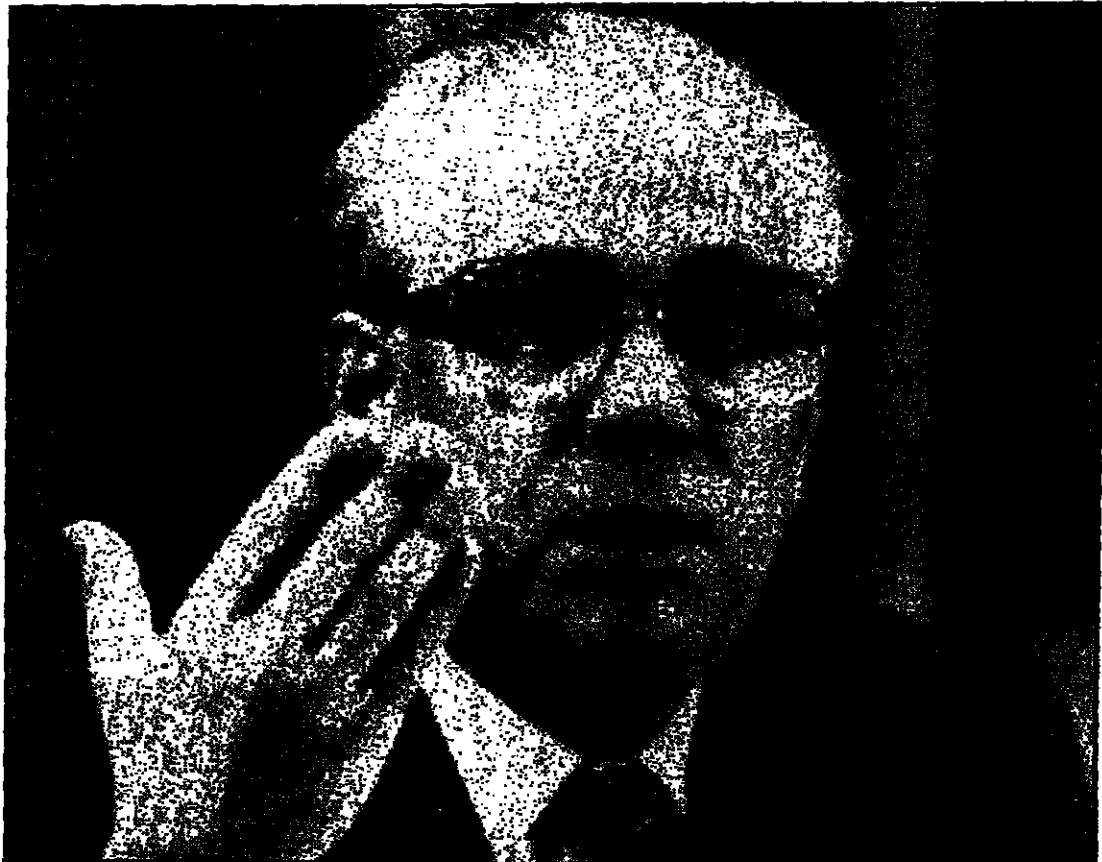
At the time he spoke in favour of major changes in legislation governing human rights, psychiatry and prison regulations and said he wanted to disclose the truth about organised crime, a growing problem here.

Junior

Lukyanov, a junior member of the party's ruling Politburo since 1988 and a member of the policy-making Central Committee since 1985, had been responsible in the committee for legal and administrative matters.

Before then, he headed the secretariat of the old rubber-stamp Parliament and served as a government legal adviser.

Born on May 7, 1930 in Smolensk, southwest of Moscow, he began working in a munitions factory at the age of 13, at the height of World War II.



Lukyanov, Gorbachev's deputy

Kashmir dispute

SIR: It was published in newspapers that the Bangladesh government expressed its neutrality vis-a-vis the Kashmir dispute. There are some arguments for and against this position.

India denies the right to self-determination for the Kashmiri people. Sri Lanka is afflicted by Indian intervention. Nepal is affected by Indian trade blockade. Bangladesh is deadlocked by the non-participation of India in the control of huge flood that originates from India and devastates Bangladesh.

On the other hand India takes interest in the withdrawal of valuable drought season water from the Ganges and thereby effectively takes part in desertification of part of Bangladesh.

Inside India, discrimination against the lower caste, against the Muslims and against the women is the order of the day.

The struggle of the Kashmiri people for the right to self-determination, the struggle of Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh against Indian expansionism and intervention and the struggle of the Indian people for people's democracy are linked on the same thread. All these people should support one another and should not remain neutral.

Mastafizur Rahman, Safat.

Good Samaritan

SIR: Through your esteemed paper I would like to thank the gentleman from Fatahahel (name not known) who has kindly returned my lost letter through the post. There are still some great hearted people who show act of kindness.

Engr. Abdul Quasim, Shuwalikh Ind. Area.

Indian turmoil

SIR: The recent deterioration in law and order situation in India particularly in Punjab (India's bread basket) and Kashmir (India's paradise on earth) poses a very grave threat to the very existence of a unified secular India.

Trouble is also brewing in other parts of India due to communal feelings which have taken a new turn in the recently concluded general and state elections.

Illiterate, power-hungry and corrupt politicians just inflame communal passions to meet their own gains. They do not see to the development of society on the whole. India is a great country where people of all religions live in peace and harmony for centuries, but recently this peaceful co-existence is breaking up due to irresponsible speeches given by our

so-called patriotic politicians. (Most of them illiterate of course).

Progress and development of the country should be their goal — just a few clean men at the top cannot work miracles. This is the reason why our country is still lagging behind.

With its enormous mineral wealth and huge workforce now after more than 42 years of independence, our beloved country should have been a world power economically — not militarily as our father of the nation preached and adhered to non-violence.

At present why are the minorities fighting for their rights? Why are the Sikhs unhappy? Why are the Muslims in Kashmir unhappy? There is definitely something wrong somewhere.

Recently the deputy prime minister of India made a remark that all Christians should either go to Europe or America. Now do these illiterate politicians want to provoke the sentiments of the Christians also? These politicians should be brought to justice no matter at what cost to save the image of a united secular India.

Religion should not be mixed with politics at any cost. The judiciary in India should be empowered to give these politicians who indulge in mud-slinging at each other religious the harshest penalty — even if it means the death penalty — so that all other religions live together in peace and harmony in their beloved homeland. My heart beats for

India — let not religion divide this great country for united we stand divided we fall.

A patriotic Indian, Safat.

Goan play

SIR: This is in response to a Konkani drama staged on 16/2/90. This letter appeared in Arab Times on March 8. One Augusto Fernandes says Coloso, is ignorant of Konkani stage. Coloso's letter which appeared in Arab Times on March 4 was completely true, and I shall congratulate him as a true Goan.

The letter dated Feb 22, by one local Augusto Fernandes, was completely meaningless and if such criticism letters appear in the column I request the editor to reject them, because many local non-Goans, criticise our Goan director and actors, as they don't like our language to come up that is why they put the criticism columns on newspapers.

Augusto, also says that actors come to Kuwait to make money. Why did Augusto Fernandes, leave his homeland to come here? Not to earn some money? So we must not insult our Goan director and actors. Goan organisers bring them to entertain Kuwaiti Goans, not for us to criticise them.

P. Ilhas Pereira, Kuwait.

PRESIDENTS of the United States are not the only ones who hire soothsayers to tell them what the future will bring. Large corporations also sign up former cabinet officers and foreign policy experts to warn them what to expect around the globe. These experts don't come cheap, but they're worth it. From Moscow to Mandela it's been one triumph after another for global consultants.

Occasionally, there are misunderstandings. I was sitting in the anteroom of Heinrich Applebaum's "Made-to-Order Quality Predictions" when Willard Dergen, CEO of Stardust Avionics, charged in. He wanted to know why he hadn't been informed about the overthrow of the old regime in Czechoslovakia, and its replacement with a playwright, who he had paid Heinrich a fee of \$750,000.

Heinrich smiled, as he usually does when stuck in a corner, and replied, "We didn't want to bother you with something so insignificant. Czechoslovakia is such a little country, it can't affect anything."

Confirmed

Willard spluttered and said, "Why did I have to find out on CNN that Romania was about to fall and its leader had been killed? Your job is to let me know who is going to get killed in Romania."

"Willard, we didn't want to go off the deep end until our CIA sources confirmed it for us. One thing we don't do at Applebaum Predictions is fax a client for the sake of faxing him."

"This may sound strange to you, but I don't like to spend \$2 million a year and not even know about the fall of the Berlin Wall. Why didn't you people inform us that the wall was going to be torn down?"

"The East Germans gave us their word that the wall would stay forever. But they double-crossed us to suck up to West Germany."

"Why didn't your firm predict the collapse of communism in East Germany?"

Germany

"We don't Red-bait. Nobody could have seen that coming. If we had told you last year that there would soon be only one Germany, you would have asked for your money back. Weren't you surprised?"

"I pay you so that I won't be surprised. How come I didn't hear from you when Bulgaria went under?"

"We told you that there is a surge for information about events in Bulgaria. Willard, were we or weren't we right on Poland?"

"You were as right as Time magazine which was where I first read the story. What have you been doing about the Soviet Union?"

"We're very interested in it. There are many significant things going on there right now, and when we find out what is happening we're going to make a report to all our clients."

"I have to know now. If I can't figure out what the Soviet Union is doing, I won't be able to decide how much business the Defence Department is going to throw my way. You owe it to me to give me the scoop on daily events in the Kremlin."

Report

"Willard, we have a report on Raisa Gorbachev's dressmaker that will make your hair stand on end."

"When do I see this intelligence?"

"As soon as we get the leather-bound report with your name engraved on it back from the printer. It's a gorgeous presentation if I must say so myself."

"Give me something today that I can go back to my board with to justify your outrageous fee."

"The South Africans are going to release Nelson Mandela from prison."

"They did that last month."

"They did?" Heinrich was truly surprised. "Nobody tells me anything."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

QUOTE ME

"This is not some effort to incur favour. This was a special opportunity for the church to make a contribution to the battle against this dreaded disease. I think these people are ones with heroic virtues. If they should die, whether they should be called martyrs I don't know. But they certainly would be in my mind."

— A US Archbishop rejecting suggestions to improve relations with homosexuals when he called for volunteers to try a new AIDS vaccine.

"To my astonishment, I find that the BBC that Stalin and Brezhnev were 'co-sufferers'. I had thought they were communists!" — Jibed Norman Tebbit.

"If we don't 'communistise' my son and so many others will be considered as war that we could have won if only we had tried harder and moved faster."

— Star of Starkey and Hatch's wife in emotional testimony before the House of Representatives Budget Committee seeking money for AIDS cure.

WANG LIT



BA pilot Richard Smith with one of the second-hand sewing machines—the extra baggage—he carries to Gambia

Flying...on a mission of mercy

One man's charity in Gambia

BIG-hearted Captain Richard Smith takes more than just passengers when he pilots his British Airways Tristar to the Third World.

For the caring airman flies a mission of mercy delivering second-hand sewing machines to the needy in Africa.

Richard, who wanted to make his week-long stopovers in Gambia more worthwhile, hit on the idea after spotting two old sewing machines at a local car-boot sale.

Richard, 53, said: "When I bought the sewing machines, I wanted to send them where they would do the most good, so I phoned the Christian Missionary Society in London. I asked them if they had anyone in Gambia who would benefit from the sewing machines. And they had an Anglican training centre in Farafenni which is 120 miles up-river from Gambia's capital, Banjul.

"They have a missionary there who is teaching the locals how to farm efficiently to get the best out of their land. And his wife is a seamstress and runs sewing classes for the locals."

Richard, a grandfather of three, has been to Banjul more than twice a month during the past year and has delivered nine second-hand sewing machines to contacts in the city who sent the machines up-river. He took the machines one at a time in his hand luggage on the plane.

"It was simply a Christian response to a need," said Richard. "It is a very poor

country and it does not have the money to import things like sewing machines."

As we talked at his home in East Grinstead, Sussex, Richard showed me the tenth sewing machine that he will take to Gambia next month (March). Richard explained: "It's from about 1907. Most of the sewing machines I've taken out there have been pre-World War One.

Service "Before I take them out, they are all fully serviced by the local agent. He refused the £10 servicing fee for the first six machines when he heard they were going out to Gambia. In the end, I had to insist he take the money and even then he reduced the service charge."

Now the machines are being used at the missionary centre to teach locals how to make their own clothes.

"It's a very poor society," Richard told me. "They've got a very little going for them. Gambia has a mainly agricultural background and the people live in incredible poverty."

"My living room would be a house to them. There would be nothing on the floor and all their belongings would be strung up on a line. And their cooking arrangements are a pile of sticks in the corner."

"In that context, a sewing machine becomes not only something to make their own clothes more simply instead of time-consuming hand stitching—it is also the basis of a small, local cottage industry.

"In fact, that seems to be what's going on up at Farafenni, where most of the machines have gone. They are helping to supplement their own incomes by making clothes for other people."

Richard proudly shows off a wooden carved head on his living-room wall. It was a present from the sewing class at the missionary centre to show their appreciation.

Committed

As a committed Christian, he has also used his stopovers in Gambia to spread the good word. He gives Bible classes on the beach and claims he has converted more than 20 young Gambians to Christianity during the past year.

"My Bible classes started by accident," he said. "When you're walking on the beach in Gambia, you always meet locals. The Gambians are very friendly people and will come and talk to you."

"But there is no doubt some of them want to make friends with Europeans merely for financial support. They see people arriving in Gambia spending what to them is huge sums of money and they hope a little may come their way, which is human nature."

"They will ask you for almost anything and they're quite brash about it. They'll say, 'I like your trainers. When you go home, will you let me have them?' Or they will ask for text-books and pens for their children's education."

"What I did when they asked me was to say, 'Well, I haven't got any of those but I'll give you a present from England'. And I would give them a pocket-sized testament."

"The Africans are naturally a spiritual people. You don't have to argue with them about the existence of God. It is only a question of which one is the right religion."

"My Bible classes started off with two people. I sometimes have half a dozen in the class. I have them at 10 o'clock in the morning, then at five in the afternoon. People have been turning up because they know I'm there."

So how many students in his classes have converted to Christianity? "It must be getting on to a couple of dozen now," he said. "I think what I have done is small but I think it is important to them. I have had immense satisfaction from the classes."

"It is a great privilege to teach them. They are such lovely, friendly people. It is not a question of foisting religion on them—I started giving out a few gospels and had dozens of people clamouring for copies."

Unfortunately British Airways is taking the Tristar off the Gambia route in March and Richard will be flying to other countries.

Richard said: "I have a lot of friends in Gambia, black and white, and I will miss them terribly but I am keeping in touch by letter."

Building a bridge of understanding

BOSTON: Caroline Chang is often quoted as saying "There's always more to do." It's not a statement of weariness, but of purpose.

Ms. Chang has been a leader in Boston's Asian Community for nearly 20 years. She has won numerous recognitions for her work, most recently the Amelia Earhart Award from the Women's, Education and Industrial Union in Boston.

A regional director of the federal office of Civil Rights since 1982, Chang's commitment to civil rights is rooted in her role as a community activist in Boston's Chinatown. There, she has helped unify Asians of different descent and developed programmes to help the community. Among them: the Massachusetts Asian American Forum (rights advocacy, education), the Asian Community Development Corporation (housing, business development), and the Chinese Golden Age Centre (drop-in centre for the elderly).

In an interview in her modest office on the 24th floor of the John F. Kennedy Building here, Chang talked about the changes and challenges within the Asian community in Boston and the nation at large.

"There's a real overlap," she says, concerning "what are community issues and what are civil rights issues." Community issues are the same for everyone—safety, jobs, and housing. But "the degree of the problems are different when you're dealing with race, language, and culture," she says.

One of the biggest changes she has witnessed in the past years in Boston's Asian community has been its growth, a phenomenon mirrored throughout the nation. Chang says that when she was growing up in the 50s, Chinatown was practically a "little village" of 2,500 Chinese, where "everybody knew everybody."

After the change in US immigration laws in 1965, "the community grew by leaps and bounds"—almost exponentially—she recalls. "The traditional systems of providing mutual support no longer exist."

Caroline Chang has been a leader in Boston's Asian Community for about 20 years and feels that there is much more to be done. 'There's a real overlap concerning what are community issues and what are civil rights issues, says Chang. Community issues are the same for everyone—safety, jobs and housing. But the 'degree of the problems are different when you are dealing with race, language and culture,' she says.

Chang attended Boston public schools, and graduated from Boston University with a math degree. After working as an aerospace scientist, she went on to earn her law degree at Suffolk University.

Her civil rights concerns are many. "Women's issues are important to me, just as minority issues are important to me," says Chang, a board member for the National Institute for Women of Colour. "We have to continue to battle with stereotypes."

According to predictions of increased immigration, the national population is going to be more diverse than ever, she says. "The next ten years are going to be most important in learning how to live, work, and play together.... We all need to work for the common good. That means focusing on two skills: communication and education, 'even on an interpersonal level,' says Chang.

"(Chang) is a very soft-spoken, self-effacing person—characteristic of Asian women—who, uncharacteristically, has generated all sorts of bridge building in the community," says Elizabeth Boveroux, head of the selection committee for the Amelia Earhart Award. In the Asian world, the ethnic groups don't get along well together, says Ms. Boveroux, and for Chang to create a sense of unity among different groups is "something quite extraordinary."

Perhaps surprisingly, one of Chang's major concerns is the national deficit. "We're going to have to worry about how we deal with deficit decisions and how it will effect populations that tend to be disenfranchised," she says. Too, with downturns in economics, minorities are sometimes treated as scapegoats. She cites examples of violence—one was in Detroit when a Chinese was mistaken for a Japanese and killed by two laid-off auto workers. "We're still working on problems of the Vietnam war," she says.

Her role, she adds, is as a "bridge to understanding."

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Richard Harris (Mr Peabody) in full song with Julie Walters (Mrs Peabody)

Mack the Knife meets his doom

ACTRESS Julie Walters is offering a brand-new personal service in her latest movie... organising a street begging for profit business.

And her partner in the film *Mack the Knife* is scruffy husband Richard Harris. Roger Daltrey, lead singer for The Who, comments on the backstage panhandling action.

Roger was *Mack the Knife* in a television version of the show, based on the 1920's Brecht musical *The Threepenny Opera*. He is a pop link between the Victorian action and today's audiences.

But, in the movie, notorious MacHeath is played by Puerto Rican smoothie Raul Julia, who was in the Oscar-winning film *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*. Raul was nominated for a Tony Award for his performance as MacHeath in the Broadway production of *The Threepenny Opera*.

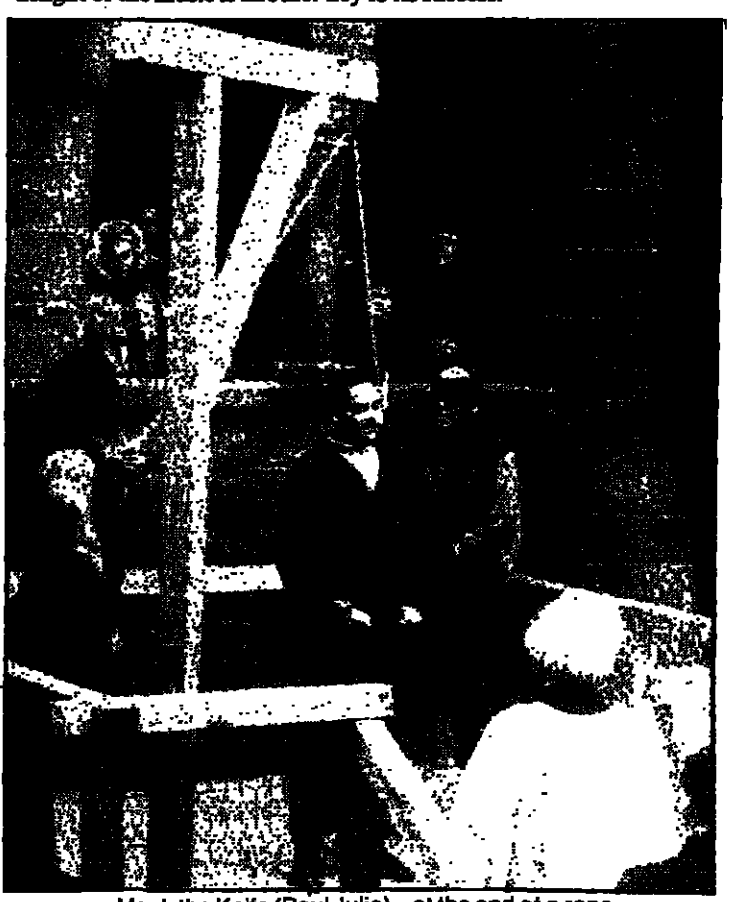
He simmers, sizzles, marries and—finally—corrupts Polly Peabody, played by 16-year-old Rachel Robertson. Rachel swaps the Levis she wears in the TV jeans commercial for Victorian rags, as the daughter of Mr and Mrs Peabody, lustily played by Julie and Richard.

The two wealthy super-stars frolic through the movie as self-appointed King and Queen of the Soho Beggars. Richard—alias the sly Mr Peabody—even tells the world he is "the poorest man in England."

When the dastardly MacHeath spirits their innocent young daughter away to teach her how to be a streetwise criminal, the couple plan the rogue's downfall. Sure enough, he ends up making a date with the hangman.

Rumbustious *Mack the Knife* preaches bloodless class war, and the *Threepenny* opera was banned by the Nazis in the Thirties.

Menahem Golan, who wrote and directed the film, said: "The play's enduring popularity is mostly due to its sense of fun and the simple folklore-like nature of its humour. It digs at such serious matters as morality, society and government. The originality and delight of the music is another key to its success."



Mack the Knife (Raul Julia)... at the end of a rope

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

LEIONNAIRES DISEASE WAS DISCOVERED IN RECENT YEARS

QUESTION: Does Legionnaires disease, named in honour of America's war veterans, have anything to do with the terrible lung disease suffered by the troops who served in France during World War I? My father used to tell us about those conditions, and he died from the long-term complications of the pneumonia he caught there.

ANSWER: It seems we have a little confusion here, and the mixing of two stories. Legionnaires disease is a disease that first attacked 182 members of the American Legion who were meeting in a Philadelphia hotel during this nation's bicentennial celebration in 1976. A new form of acute respiratory disease was seen in these people, some of whom developed pneumonia. Despite the use of antibiotics and other medications, 29 of these patients eventually died.

The cause of the disease was unknown at that time, and it took almost six months of medical detective work by members of the Centers for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania State Department of Health before the bacteria was discovered. It was found lurking in the cooling tower of the hotel's air conditioning system. The bacteria was given the name "Legionella pneumophila," the first name derived from the American Legion, first victims of the infection, and "pneumophila" because the bacteria seems to "like lungs."

The bacteria seems to prefer living in water and is more resistant to chlorine and elevated water temperatures than other bacteria. It has been found everywhere, and may be transmitted from contaminated plumbing lines, showers, condensers and cooling towers, as well as improperly cleaned humidifiers, respiratory therapy devices and whirlpools. It can be prevented by increasing the chlorina-

tion of water conditioning systems and elevating the temperature of water heating and storage facilities. It is treated with the antibiotic erythromycin.

I am at a loss to identify your father's disease from the information contained in your letter. It may be that his lung disease and the stories could be the result of poison gas attacks which occurred during World War I, taking toll in lives and complications of the respiratory and nervous systems.

I thought you would like to know: If you are just a bit confused about the health benefits of adequate fibre in your diet, you're not alone. Recommendations for a daily consumption of as much as 25 to 30 grams of fibre per day may be found in many publications, and it is widely accepted that Americans consume an average of 11 grams a day. Almost daily I receive requests for food list that indicate the amount of fibre in various foods, indicating a high level of interest in this question.

Some of the answers are provided in an informative pamphlet titled *Focus on Fibre*, provided by General Mills Inc. Address your request to Focus on Fibre, P.O. Box 5277, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55460. In addition to a description of water soluble and insoluble fibres, it provides general information about the benefits of fibre in the diet. Several pages of lists indicate the quantity of fibre in breads, cereals and pasta, cooked legumes, vegetable, and fruits and nuts.

Once you are aware of these amounts, you may begin to plan your daily menu with fibre in mind, and work towards attaining the amounts recommended by the National Cancer Institute.

Chimps declared endangered species

Protection needed

WASHINGTON (UPI): The US government has declared wild chimpanzees an endangered species, a move that will provide additional federal protection for man's closest animal relative, officials say.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service had classified the primate as a "threatened" species, but officials said additional protection was needed in view of recent studies documenting a drastic decline in the population of wild chimps in Africa.

The endangered status designation also was extended to the pygmy chimpanzee, which despite its name is about the same size as the chimpanzee but with a narrower chest and bigger lower limbs.

The chimpanzee has disappeared from five of the 25 African countries that represent its historic range and its population has fallen from an all-time high of about two million to a current estimate of 175,000 because of overhunting and loss of habitat to man.

The pygmy chimpanzee lives only in Zaire and experts estimate its population at 15,000.

Elizabeth Lipcomb, a spokeswoman for the Fish and Wildlife Service, said that by granting endangered status, the government was outlawing the importation of any chimps taken from the wild.

The move, first disclosed in a little-

noticed federal register notice earlier this week, comes in response to a petition filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by the World Wildlife Fund, the Humane Society of the United States and Jane Goodall, the renowned chimpanzee researcher.

In the November 1987 petition, Goodall said the continued removal of infant chimps from the wild was driving the ape to the verge of extinction in Africa.

She also said chimps were threatened by increasing contact with humans because they can contract many of the same diseases that afflict humans.

Because chimps are so physiologically close to humans, they are extremely valua-

ble in biomedical research, especially Aids studies, and public health officials have expressed concern about restricting their use.

As a result, the Fish and Wildlife Service specifically exempted the 1,100 to 1,450 captive chimpanzees now held at US biomedical facilities from the endangered status designation.

Captive chimps will remain classified as "threatened," a designation that places tight restrictions on importation and other uses. Lipcomb said any additional chimps needed for research would be obtained from captive chimps breeding programmes either in the United States or abroad.



Caroline Chang: championing the cause of Asians in Boston

VARIETY

Burly, bearded Richard Pett looks after the kids while wife Gerry brings home the beef

Supermum is the word for 6 ft redhead—with a beard!

By Francis Hubbard

THE title Supermum has just been won by a 6ft. redhead with size-10 feet—and a beard!

Burly builder Richard Pett may lack womanly charms but he has beaten off strong female opposites to take the top spot. Richard once spent his days sawing planks and knocking in nails. Now, as befits his new status, you'll find him pushing prams or reading fairy stories to his daughters.

The 35-year-old father-of-two found himself battling it out for the Supermum award after his wife Gerry secretly put his name forward for the contest run by a national magazine and a dairy-products firm.

She wanted to say thank you for his years as a devoted full-time father and house-husband while she has supported the family by doing a job she loves.

Richard had no idea she had entered him for the competition which drew more than 1,000 entries, until a local newspaper rang with the news. Even then, he never dared to hope he would win.

"I'm still in shock," he told me. "I've been totally overwhelmed by the whole thing—but I'm very happy to have won. To be honest, I'm chuffed to be called a 'supermum,' even if 'superdad' would be a more accurate description."

"Maybe I attracted attention because of my novelty value. I've sure the other entrants were just as good as I am. I won't make any special claims for my talents but it's nice to know I'm appreciated."

Chances
Gerry, a high-flying tax expert with an accountancy firm, was more confident about her husband's chances of scooping a prize. She said: "It was never meant as a joke. I really think he deserves the title."

"As mothers go, he's excellent at the job. There are probably a lot of women who couldn't do it as well as he does. I'm sure I couldn't."

Richard, who is a skilled carpenter, volunteered to leave his job four years ago when daughter Rachel was born. He and Ann had decided long before that he was the best suited to playing mummy.

The family needed Ann's income to survive, so she returned to work while Richard took charge of domestic affairs. He switched, without a murmur, from making gates to changing nappies. And when Vicky—now 20 months—came along, he was happy to keep holding the babies.

Speciality

He told me: "I enjoy being at home. I really do love to spend time with my children. Rachel, Vicky and I have a pretty good routine worked out for the week. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Rachel goes to playschool Wednesday, she has a short lesson with a speech therapist and Fridays, we go shopping. That leaves Monday as my day of rest. The housework is something I fit in at random. The vacuuming, washing up and dusting all get done eventually in my own time. I'm not up with a mop at 7.30 every morning but I do keep things pretty well in order."

But Richard has his domestic hates like everybody else: "I

loathe ironing," he admitted. "I've had long enough to practise but I still seem to get more creases into the clothes than out of them."

"On the other hand, I'm not a bad cook. My speciality is anything that can be served up from one pan. I get quite inspired about mixing up different flavours to see what the result will be—usually pretty good in the end, if I say so myself."

With touching pride, he added: "We had a big dinner for 12 last week and I did all the catering. It turned out quite well—no-one complained, anyway."

Richard and Gerry were both in full-time jobs when they married eight years ago. From the start, they made a point of sharing household tasks. Reversing the traditional male and female roles was simply another measure of their equality.

But even in these days of "new men," Richard is a rarity. Gerry never takes him for granted. She told me: "I'm very lucky to have him and I know it. My friends are envious that I have such an understanding husband and I think a few of them would like him for themselves!"

"It makes financial sense for

Richard to stay at home with the children. All the same, it was a big gesture for him to give up his job. He realised how important it is for one of us to be there full-time while Rachel and Vicky grow up."

Richard remains modest about his accomplishments. When praised, he looked bashful and slightly bewildered. "Oh well, I suppose I am quite adaptable," he said. "I seem to adjust to professional or domestic work just as easily. They both have different advantages."

All the same, it is hard to believe Richard made the transi-

tion from carpenter to Supermum without being teased. He admitted: "I've had some terrible stick over this award from my mates in the pub."

"They find the idea of me pushing a Hoover around pretty hilarious and they can't resist making cracks about me getting home to cook the supper. On the whole, it's good-natured banter. Once people recover from their initial surprise, they're quite appreciative of what I do."

Sometimes, though, I'll bump into an ex-workmate and he'll ask, 'Haven't you got a job yet?' Little things like that make me

realise just how unusual my situation is. It may seem natural to Gerry and me but it still raises eyebrows.

"All I can say is that it works for us. I'd never start preaching that all men should stay at home and raise children. It has to be a personal decision, not one you're forced into by fashion or outside pressure."

"And a man really has to like children to do this job—I do think of it as a job—rather than just being able to tolerate them for a few hours a day. It would probably do a lot of men some good to spend longer at home."

"In theory, gender shouldn't come into it at all. It should be a decision based on which partner is best at handling children, combined with simple economics."

But surely Richard had some problems in changing from workplace to home? He told me: "Becoming a 'house-husband' did cause a bit of a jolt to my social life because I lost normal contact with workmates."

"Of course, I still see friends in the evenings and at the weekends, or when I play darts or cricket, but the atmosphere has changed. I'm not complaining—I'm just saying it's different because I have less day-to-day contact with them."

Gerry added: "I encourage Richard to go out and socialise when he can. I know he needs a break from the house and the children every now and then, just to stop him from being bored to death."

"I see most of my friends through work, so when I get home in the evenings I'm happy to relax and not do much. But Richard is probably raring to get out, meet people, have a gossip and kick up his heels."

Company
"We enjoy each other's company but it wouldn't be fair to deprive him of all human contact, except his family!"

The Patts live in a rented

Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex. They moved to the south coast after Gerry was offered a better job in Chichester but it has been a difficult time for the family.

Their house in Banbury, Oxfordshire, has been on the market for nine months and, until it is sold, they can't afford to buy another one.

Although Gerry delayed starting her new job, she was eventually forced to move south, leaving Richard, Rachel and Vicky in Banbury for three months.

"Looking after the kids for all that time—without any relief from Gerry—completely destroyed my social life," Richard told me.

"I had to be with Rachel and Vicky 24 hours a day, which meant taking them along even if I was just nipping out to buy a paper or a pint of milk. The first few weeks were a novelty but it soon wore me down."

"It made me understand why single parents get tired and depressed. Children exhaust you because they're always on the go. Once they're awake, you get no respite."

"I admire single mothers—or fathers—who manage to bring up two or three without help. You may love and adore your children, but you still need adult company."

You can't help wondering if the Patts have considered paying for a child-minder so they are both free to work. Richard was adamant: "Oh no," he said. "We wouldn't consider it when Rachel and Vicky are below school age."

Real

"It would mean leaving them with a stranger for eight hours a day. We'd come home in the evening and it would all be a mad rush—tea, bathed, dressed for bed. We'd only have a few minutes of normality with them."

"It's even a bit like that when Gerry comes in from work. She has a couple of hours of frantic activity before the children are tucked up for the night. At least they have the stability of me being 'on call' all day at the moment."

Gerry agreed: "I have moments of regret, like any working mother, when I worry about what a time of day it is. Sometimes I'd like to see more of the children but I make sure I'm there for significant dates, like the playgroup nativity. I'll take time off when they need me."

Richard made a brief return to the building trade when Gerry had six months' maternity leave after Victoria's birth. But, although he enjoyed being back in harness, it was definitely a temporary measure.

"I'm not a house-husband on sufferance," he told me. "I'm committed to doing the job properly—and for as long as it takes. I can't say 'Yes, I'll rush back to work the second Vicky turns five because I don't know what the future holds.'"

"It's quite possible that we'll have more children. If so, I'd be very happy to carry on exactly where I am now."

At that, Richard was alerted by the sound of Rachel's crying from the bedroom. "She's had a tiring day," he explained with a sigh. He bustled out of view and within seconds the tears were replaced by delighted giggles of laughter. Supermum was at work.



(Above): Little Vicky Pett decides to give her Supermum dad a hand with the washing. (Left): Washing dishes is all part of a day's work for Richard.



Vicky Pett, 20 months old, shows sister Rachel who's boss. Richard and Gerry keep mum.

Sexy, sporty....crazy; but not ready to wear

PARIS. (AP): With hooker styles at Angelo Tarlazzi and wild lampshade hoop skirts at Thierry Mugler, some of last week's fashion shows failed to live up to their name—ready to wear.

But with all the craziness in the show for next winter, there existed quiet and sporty moments at houses like Cerruti, Castelbajac and even Comme des Garçons.

Rei Kawakubo at Comme des Garçons concentrated on drawing parka looks and bubbly silhouettes. Coupled with minis or long skirts, the bunched parkas or anoraks were often in black, white or lame, with the drawstrings all over the place.

Kawakubo's new discovery was "bonded" or unwoven fabrics with a light, shimmery quality, sometimes crimped, or in gray with a mosaic or snakeskin quality.

They looked appealing in shades of brown, gold or caramel or springy colours like robin's-egg blue. And some indecent velvety fabrics were striking for dressier moments.

Shapely tunics, dangling extra sleeves and bunching in odd places were the usual Kawakubo trademarks that appeal to her many fans in Japan.

Yohji Yamamoto went in for red and black in a big way and offered fun if somewhat complicated styles in bicoloured outfits with petal-like skirts under cute fake fur wraps.

He also used curve bell shapes to advantage in longer-skirted models, with quilted skirts and sleeves paired with fitted bodices. The bubbly skirts and tops gave it all a "modern-medieval" look.

In sexier ready-to-wear, Angelo Tarlazzi showed a lot of provocative skin-tight knit minis in hot colour or navy, some with draping and buttons at

the shirts with hems way up to high thigh. Topped with loose little jackets and worn with long satin skirts, these looked reasonably wearable by the younger set.

His late-day clothes in stretch satins and crepes featuring quilted satin hearts on derrieres, bust or elsewhere and his draped sizzling satin body-hugging numbers were tarty in an echo of what Ungaro did several seasons ago. They looked zingy on the runway but couldn't be safely worn by polite society.

Jean-Charles de Castelbajac had some great ideas in the sporty line, starting with his huge mohair tartan overcoats topping tiny bright minis and tights all in his preferred primary colours.

Bright new mohair and ribbon-woven fabrics mixed with quilted leather made for interesting jackets topping leather shorts with colourful tights.

A witty feature was the rolled window-blind panels on coats worn over shortage kilts. There were rafts of duffel coats, full shorts bunched at the waist and some striking burnoose coats with hoods.

Unforgettable were the vast trapeze coats in plaid on the outside and white fake fur linings turned out to make cape collars.

"This special double-faced plaid fabric especially made in southwest France is basically what the old French concierges' bedroom slippers are made of," said Castelbajac.

Nino Cerruti kept his show relatively quiet with soft and loose hooded duster coats over narrow jersey pants, and some good dark windowpane plaids—in blazers over lean draped asymmetrical skirts or jumpsuits with full pants.



Comme des Garçons model presents this striped two-piece outfit worn with a pointed beret.

Italians await 'erotica' channel

ROME. (Reuters): Italians are all set for their first taste of pay-television: a cocktail of X-rated movies, sex therapy and what is billed as an erotic version of candid camera.

Some 70,000 people have written in to join the "Pay-TV Italian Club" open to adult members only, and the signal decoder needed to receive the broadcast for 250,000 lire (\$200).

"We won't be a hard-core TV channel," pledged the station's stocky, round-faced director, Roberto Artigiani, whose plans to broadcast from the Tuscan Village of Bientino outside Pisa have enraged many of the usually tranquil inhabitants.

"We won't be a hard-core TV channel," pledged the station's stocky, round-faced director, Roberto Artigiani, whose plans to broadcast from the Tuscan Village of Bientino outside Pisa have enraged many of the usually tranquil inhabitants.

"We'll tackle sex in an open, intelligent way, without false moralism or propriety," added the 47-year-old Artigiani, who composes a TV shopping show on another private channel.

His first coded signals are due to go on the air at one o'clock on Monday, April, giving only the first few hours of paid-up members a taste of things to come.

First, "Perfume of Love"—10 minutes of viewers' letter.

Every so often someone sends in a saucy letter. If you write fifth I don't read it out. So what you want, but always with elegance," hostess Anna Fukury, in a black mini-skirt, tells her viewers in the pre-recorded first broadcast of the series.

Then a sex-therapy session, a games show, a cabaret dominated by strip-tease, and finally a movie, leaving viewers to closing time at three am.

The local special price, the Christian movie, Christian Democratic politicians and the Roman Catholic press have all appealed for tighter laws to kill the new channel as it seems relay to stations throughout Italy.

From his pulpit this month, Father Silvano, repeatedly, "denounced Artigiani's bid to join the channel as 'a movement in the field of pornography'."

"The indecent channel could have fallen any lower," added Monsignor Christian, Democrat party, chief Mario Quaglia.

Artigiani is unimpressed. "We were expecting some reaction. But we've got nothing to be worried about. We've already shown all the certificates for the 'X' rating films to the police."

"As we pay TV for adults and we thought that at least at first we'd broadcast at night, we could hardly get out of bed, could we?" he asked.

A senior official at Rome's telecommunications ministry, responsible for the industry, said he was not against the channel but was keenly aware of the dangers of pornography.

"But this is a private club. If you buy the decoder in the first place, you want to see the porn," he added.

The launch date, originally set for February, has been delayed due to technical problems but directors are confident all will be ready by the middle of next month.

As well as what Artigiani called "soft erotica," the channel will offer a little sport, local politics, and shopping via television.

Viewers can also look forward to shows starring Italy's post-war turned parliamentarian, Silvio Berlusconi, known by his stage name Ciccio (little caddy), elected on a new radical party ticket.

Although 70,000 have written in asking to join the network club, most will have to wait before they receive their money's worth.

Only the club's members in the city will see the launch. But by this summer, said Artigiani, the broadcast will cover some 70 per cent of Italy—excluding northern Milan and Venice among other areas.

New gadgets

Language at your tonguetip!

By Elizabeth A. Brown

BOSTON (CSM): Planning a trip abroad? Frightened about your French? Frightened about your Japanese?

Tu rilasciati! Relax! That is, if you have the new Talking Hexaglot by DictioMatic—a pocket-sized, computerized, multilingual translator that speaks.

This new gadget is just one of many electronic translators that fit in your hand, replacing the pocket dictionary. And the business is growing rapidly.

In 1987, when Casio introduced the first 430,000 units were sold. By the next year five companies were making new versions, and sales surpassed one million. By 1990, with six companies at work, sales should exceed 2 million units world-wide.

Only one, Talking Hexaglot, gets vocal. Just type in the word you need translated, press the proper language key, and the foreign word is spoken by a digitized human voice.

Unlike computerized voices—like those in elevators, cars, and cameras—digitized pronunciation and accents are authentic, says Domingo Linares, president of DictioMatic Inc. in Miami.

"We have taped professional people who spoke in front of a microphone," says Mr. Linares, a native of Bolivia. "Then we converted the words into logarithms, and the microprocessor converts them into an actual voice," he says. "The Japanese will sound like a Japanese, and the German will sound really German." All the voices are male.

But for every invention there's always someone who says, "It's a gimmick."

"I've never understood the fascination of Americans to want to type on a little machine rather than flip through a dictionary," says a foreign language expert at West Coast university.

Although the expert, a Frenchman, admits that hearing a clearly spoken word is an advantage for a traveller, the expert says the words are out of context, and there's no way to reconcile idiomatic expressions.

"Like, 'It's raining cats and dogs.' Can you imagine what I'd come up with if I punched that into a little

machine?"

Devices Vary In Cost, Ability. Talking Hexaglot puts more than 2,800 words at your tonguetip, in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Japanese.

Chotto matten! Just a minute! What about phrases like "What time does the train leave?" and "It's too expensive?" Not to worry, Talking Hexaglot has 50 phrases.

Talking Hexaglot won't be available in stores until April. Even so, DictioMatic is getting up to 200,000 of these \$249 talking gadgets in the rest of the year.

If you want Russian, you'll have to wait until June, when a slew of Russian words and phrases will be added.

Silent translators are available in a range of languages and capabilities, from Sharp, Casio, Rand McNally, Fanfare, Selectronic, Berlitz, and DictioMatic. Most of the gizmos are offered at national chain stores like Brookstone and Sharper Image, and at better hobby and department stores.

The most advanced is Hexaglot T-477, also by DictioMatic. It offers 6,800 words in each of six languages (Portuguese in place of Japanese), and sells for \$149. A lower-priced model, T150, sells for \$89 but has fewer words.

Last month Selectronic introduced "EuroTraveller" by Berlitz, which offers 10 languages (including three Scandinavian, for \$149), with expressions only. Press the category button (first, second, emergency) and a phrase scrolls across the screen. The Berlitz Interpreter model will soon be available, with 12,500 words and 300 phrases per language; this will sell for \$99.

Several other, more limited models are available. Fanfare offers only 2,600 words for each of five European languages. This sells for \$89, but the unit is difficult to read. Rand McNally makes a model which has only a numbered keyboard, so users must consult the guidebook for the word's pronunciation question.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Seminar on banking and finance

Bright forecast for Gulf banks

By M.C. Bose
Business editor

ANDREW CUNNINGHAM, MEED's specialist on banking and finance is looking better now, at the beginning of 1990, than it has for many years. Most institutions which have declared their results for 1989 have shown increased profits and this trend is expected to continue as more results are published during the next few weeks. There have been some hiccups, notably Gulf International Bank, which declared a loss of nearly \$600 million as a result of loan loss provisioning, but the overall picture is very optimistic.

He said higher priority is being given to good management and tighter controls are being imposed on credit. Bottom line profitability is being given priority over asset size.

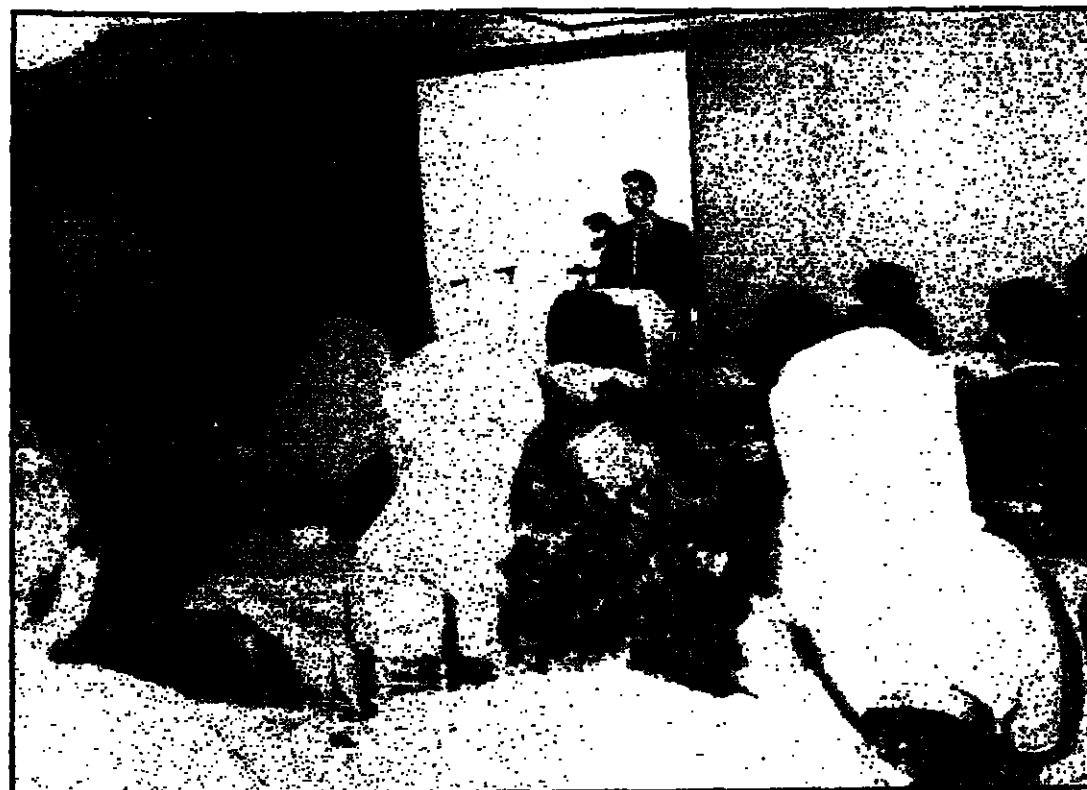
While addressing a Kuwait seminar on Gulf banking and finance, Cunningham said the banking systems in the six GCC countries are almost entirely self contained. National Bank of Kuwait does not have a branch in the UAE. National Bank of Bahrain does not have a branch in Saudi Arabia. There are a few cross-border shareholdings, mostly involving Kuwaiti institutions, but they are highly exceptional. Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, Bahrain's biggest bank in terms of assets is partly owned by Kuwaiti institutions. Bahraini and Kuwaiti institutions own parts of Bank of Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait. But the clear underlying structure of GCC banking is that we have six systems which are effectively standing alone.

There is little prospect of that position changing in the next five years. Gulf banking markets are overcrowded and central banks are unwilling to allow foreign competitors to take business away from their own institutions," he added.

Cunningham said there are six banking systems in the Gulf. Perhaps we should say seven, since the Bahrain offshore market is markedly different from any other in the region. The Bahrain offshore banks focus entirely on cross border business and have significant international exposure. Although they are regulated by the Bahrain Monetary Agency, which also regulates Bahrain's commercial banks, they are not supervised by the Bahrain Monetary Agency.

All the GCC economies are capital exporters. The wealth of Gulf citizens has outstripped the opportunities for investment in Gulf economies. Finding suitable assets is more of a problem than attracting deposits. Despite the downturn in the Gulf economies during the late 1980s, there is no prospect that the Gulf's status as a capital exporting area will change.

Most of the GCC economies are linked to the US dollar. Some are technically linked to the SDR, but effectively tied to the dollar. Only Kuwait uses a basket of currencies so that its currency's value can fluctuate from week to week. Even so, it



Andrew Cunningham addresses the seminar and MEED's local co-ordinator P.B.V. Rajan presents a paper on Arab industries.

is believed that the dollar is the most important element in the basket which makes up the dinar's value.

The demographic structure of the GCC states is very similar. The population of all the GCC states is small in relation to their size. Most of the population is concentrated in towns, with the result that people are accessible to local banks and able to take advantage of new products and services. The net worth of Gulf banking customers is also uniformly high.

He said regulations covering the operation of banks in individual countries differ widely, but there are now moves to harmonise them, particularly with respect to capital adequacy requirements. Harmonisation will take some time to achieve, but genuine progress can be expected during the 1990s. Gulf banks have shared the experience of starting operations at a time of great capital surplus, and of then having to cope with very difficult economic circumstances as the oil price plummeted in the mid-1980s. In recent years, all have faced up to the need to rationalise their operations to take account of more straitened circumstances.

He said the first point to note is the clear dominance of the three biggest banking markets, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE. Each one of them can boast more assets or deposits than the three smallest countries combined. The size of the UAE banking system is worth noting. We rarely see UAE banks taking a high profile in the Gulf, and they were not part of the expansion in Gulf banks' overseas representation which occurred at the end of the 1980s. The size of the UAE banking market reflects the number of banks in the federation — there are nearly

20 foreign banks registered in the UAE as well as 19 local banks — and also the high level of deposits, particularly in Abu Dhabi.

A Western banker looking for business opportunities in the Gulf could be excused for thinking that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE would be the only markets worth considering. Such an attitude would be profoundly mistaken, however, as we can see from an analysis of the market share of the biggest Gulf institution.

Cunningham told the seminar Kuwait is one of the more balanced markets. The biggest bank, National Bank of Kuwait, holds about 30 per cent of the banking assets in the country. This would be slightly less if we include Kuwait Finance House. The other commercial banks are roughly the same size — The Gulf Bank, the second biggest bank had assets at the end of 1988 of KD1,063 million compared to KD1,063 million for Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East, the smallest bank.

This pattern is not repeated in Saudi Arabia where National Commercial Bank — the biggest commercial bank in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf as a whole accounts for about 50 per cent of total banking assets in the kingdom. In the UAE the two biggest banks, National Bank of Abu Dhabi and National Bank of Dubai represent about 39 per cent of total banking assets. Both are about twice the size of the next biggest institution, Dubai-based Bank of Oman, which has no means an insignificant institution.

In Qatar, the biggest bank, Qatar National Bank dwarfs the other institutions, taking 50 per cent of total banking assets. In Bahrain, the two biggest institutions, Bank of

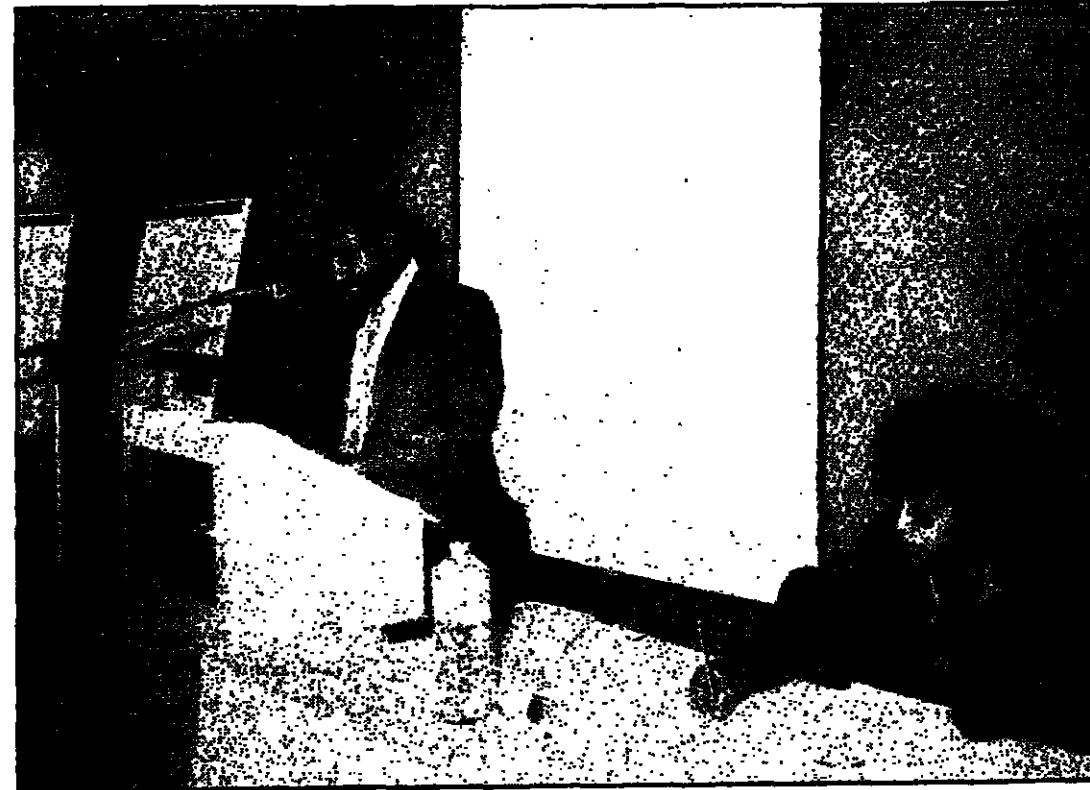
Bahrain and Kuwait and National Bank of Bahrain, have about 78 per cent of commercial banking assets. In Oman the leading bank has 26 per cent of the market. The biggest four banks account for 53 per cent.

The gap between the leading, large, Gulf banks and the smaller banks is likely to grow during the 1990s. The bigger institutions will be able to afford to invest in new technological products and expand overseas, while the smaller banks will have to remain content with local operations.

He said while considering the relative sizes of Gulf banks it is worthwhile pausing for a moment to look at the Bahrain offshore banks, whose importance is frequently overestimated. Arab Banking Corporation and Gulf International Bank both count as leading Gulf financial institutions, but other Bahrain-incorporated offshore banks are relatively small, with assets of around \$1 billion or less. The original role for the offshore banks — that of lending into Saudi Arabia for the construction boom — is largely over and Bahrain's role as an intermediary between Far Eastern and European foreign exchange markets is being threatened.

The lines of comparison become less clear when we consider the next three potential points of difference between Gulf banks — international and local activity; profitability and lack of profitability; and retail rather than corporate emphasis.

"I have no difficulty in assessing that the Gulf has only one international bank — Arab Banking Corporation in Bahrain. Of course, other banks have substantial international operations, but ABC is the only Gulf bank which refers to itself



P.B.V. Rajan presents a paper on Arab industries.

as an international bank. Gulf International Bank and National Bank of Kuwait both see themselves as regional rather than international banks and their ambition is to extend their operations in the Gulf rather than in international markets. National Commercial Bank of Saudi Arabia also has substantial overseas activities, but the bank clearly views them as a way of strengthening its services within the kingdom," Cunningham added.

The Bahrain offshore banks and the Saudi joint venture banks can claim a high degree of international involvement, and Kuwaiti commercial banks have also been active in expanding overseas. Nevertheless, the majority of Gulf institutions remain overwhelmingly focused on regional or local institutions.

He said a more uniform picture emerges when we consider profitability of Gulf banks. As we noted earlier, most banks are expected to declare healthy profits for 1989 and show continuing improvement during 1990. In the late 1980s many banks had to declare losses as a result of heavy loan loss provisioning. Some had to write down their shareholders' equity as a result. Most of the banks which experienced serious problems have now recovered, or are at least on the road to recovery.

Saudi British Bank declared its expected profits and dividend for 1989, after two years of losses. United Saudi Commercial Bank has recovered its profitability after swinging cuts in expenditure and staffing. Saudi Cairo Bank has begun the painful process of rebuilding its capital base, although it will be many years before the bank is able to declare a profit. Question marks remain over Bank Al Jazira

in Jeddah. Several Bahraini offshore banks are expected to declare losses for 1989 as a result of new provisioning guidelines introduced by the Bahrain Monetary Agency. Arab Banking Corporation assigned all its net profits for 1989 to provisions. Arabank is expected to declare a large loss when its results are published during the next few weeks.

He said a question mark must also be placed over the profitability of Kuwaiti banks, with the exception of the National Bank of Kuwait which does not operate under central bank supervision. Although profitable on a day-to-day basis, the five commercial banks are technically deficit institutions. Until they are able to operate without central bank support, it is difficult to compare their performance in any meaningful way to other banks in the region.

Nevertheless, the overall picture is one of improving profitability throughout the region. This trend will only be jeopardised by a sharp fall in Western interest rates which would cut the banks' investment income.

The final area to look for points of difference is in the area of retail and corporate banking. We have already said that the smaller Gulf banks will have to rely increasingly on local business. This does not mean that the larger banks will have to give ground in the retail market.

In fact, the larger institutions are better placed to expand their retail business through the provision of new technological services and branch operations. Saudi Arabia and Oman are particularly attractive retail markets, since a bigger proportion of their populations

lives outside the main towns in areas which are still underbanked.

The drive to introduce automated teller machine (ATM) services and investment funds for smaller investors indicates that banks still see considerable potential in the retail market. Retail banking involves high overheads, however, and those institutions which are already strong in the market are likely to become stronger.

Corporate banking also is subject to technological innovation. But here the smaller banks stand a better chance of maintaining reasonable market share, since companies tend to distribute their custom to a variety of banks. The gaps between Gulf banks are likely to widen during the 1990s, as a first division of regionally and internationally orientated banks emerges in contrast to a second division of locally orientated institutions.

The seminar was jointly organised by the Kuwait SAS Hotel, MEED's local agent and MEED Publishing Co. Ltd. UK. Top banking officials, investment experts and market analysts attended the seminar.

Ralph J. Williams of NBK presented a paper on electronic banking while Dr. Amel El Tigrani of the Kuwait University presented a paper on What businessmen can expect from banks other than credit. Pamela Smith prepared a paper on Arab industries and it was delivered by MEED's local delegate P.B.V. Rajan. Meanwhile, an exhibition of banking products and books on banking and finance was also organised at SAS Tent Foyer. The seminar will continue today also.

Iranian oil minister likely to visit Kuwait

Opec discord may depress oil prices

VIENNA, March 18, (Reuters): Opec oil ministers are playing down the threat of a slide in oil prices, even though their output quota system remains in disarray after two days of talks.

They ended the weekend meeting with a statement merely reaffirming adherence to an existing accord on production curbs which has been violated in the past by several of the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Several ministers, however, did not seem to think consumers would get much of a price cut at the pump.

"I do not think there is that much oil floating around," Indonesia's Gimanjar Kartasasmita said, adding that he expected quota discipline to improve.

He said he thought the spot market average price, as computed by Opec, would go no lower than \$17 per barrel (42 US gallons).

It was \$17.91 last week, dropping below Opec's proclaimed target of 18 for the first time this year. But Gimanjar said it would be back above 20 by the end of 1990.

Opec hopes peak gasoline buying in the northern hemisphere's

summer holidays and the usual autumn demand for heating fuel will accelerate an upturn in world demand for its oil.

The upturn is eliminating a glut which existed for much of the last decade. Last year US imports of Opec oil rose by a quarter.

Market experts broadly agreed with the Opec ministers on the outlook for prices.

"I see a reasonably brief period of weakness but no crash," said a senior Western oil company executive.

Mehdi Varzi, an analyst who follows Opec for London stock-

brokers Kleinwort Benson, said he thought "prices are near the bottom now." Fine weather in Europe promised an early start to the summer motoring season, he said.

Beyond the next few weeks, the question is how long producers like Kuwait and the UAE will continue to try to use the leverage of their big output capacity to stop prices rising faster.

Traditional pricing "hawks" Iran, Libya and Algeria say Opec should raise its target price from 18 to possibly \$20, perhaps as early as its next meeting on May 25.

White House opens door to budget deal with Congress

WASHINGTON, March 18, (Reuters): President George Bush opened the door to negotiating a budget deal with Congress to cut the huge US deficit when he signalled his willingness to talk about the previously taboo subject of raising taxes.

Bush turned his attention to taxes after Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the tax-writing house ways and means committee, produced a plan to eliminate the budget deficit by 1995. Last year the deficit was \$152 billion.

The goal would be accomplished by freezing most spending, cutting defence costs and raising taxes.

In an apparent step back from his "read my lips, no new taxes" pledge which prevailed during his election campaign and dominated the first 14 months of his presidency, Bush told a news conference last week everything was open for discussion.

"We're prepared to negotiate, absolutely," Bush said, adding in the next breath, though, that he still opposed higher taxes.

He called Rostenkowski's approach "serious" and said that although he opposed

higher taxes he was just one player in the debate. Rostenkowski's plan may not be very palatable to lawmakers or voters, especially during this congressional election year.

The Illinois Democrat's plan offers a tough series of measures, including freezing social security benefits and most other spending for a year and cutting military spending by three per cent for the next five years.

It would raise tax rates to 33 per cent from 28 per cent for high income taxpayers, and boost taxes on petrol, beer, wine, cigarettes and industrial pollutants. It also rules out any tax cuts, which would end the President's hopes for a cut this year in the capital gains tax.

Bush said that while he did not like the tax increases, the plan had merit because it would balance the budget in five years, a goal most agree is desirable.

Both the Democrat-controlled Congress and the administration have expressed urgent concern about the need to stop spending more

each year than the government takes in.

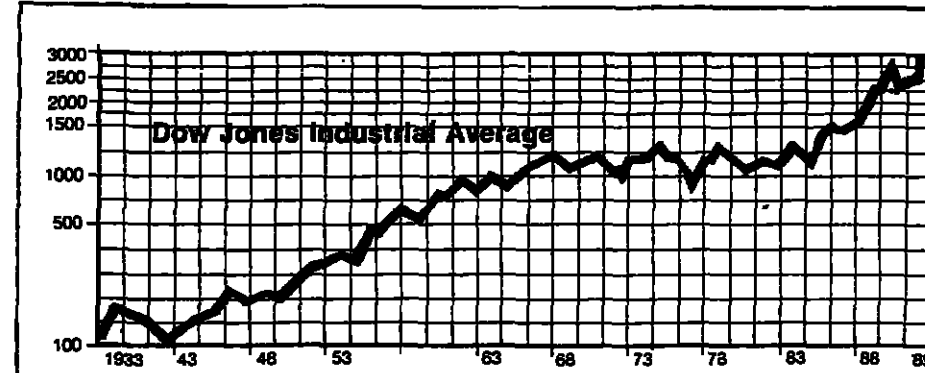
Although they placed some controls on themselves a few years ago by passing the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction law, the deficit will be an estimated \$123.8 billion this year if nothing is done to change it. The target set by the Gramm-Rudman law is \$100 billion.

The President's \$1.2 trillion proposed budget plan for fiscal 1991, which starts on Oct 1, calls for a deficit of \$63.1 billion, but critics say it relies too heavily on rosy economic projections.

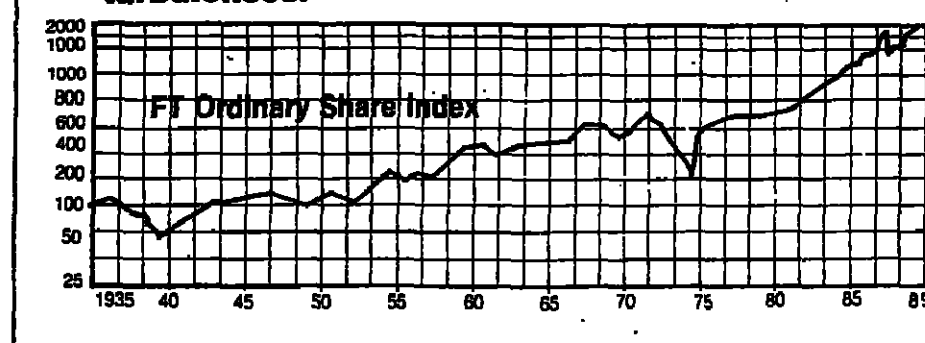
White House budget director Richard Darman, in testimony to Congress during the week, said the administration may have to revise its 1991 deficit forecast to at least \$70 billion because of the slowdown in economic growth.

Bush's willingness to negotiate on the budget issue was underscored by Darman and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, who told a congressional panel on Wednesday that the administration was prepared to be flexible.

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BUSINESS

Updated first aid kit gets go-ahead

BRITISH Airways has just spent two and a half years researching a product which they hope will never be used by any of their 25 million passengers.

The result is a new emergency first aid kit containing the most comprehensive range of medical equipment ever carried on a British Airways aircraft. It has been developed jointly by British Airways' medical services and the medical company Aeromedic Innovations Ltd.

The Civil Aviation Authority is now working closely with the airline with a view of making the new kit standard requirement for the aviation industry.

As well as the latest drugs and first aid equipment, the kit also contains detailed medical information and a special labelling system to record every time an item is used.

The kit is split into separate sections — one for use by cabin crew and the other restricted to use by qualified doctors.

Last year doctors assisted in over 400 of the medical incidents reported on British Airways aircraft. By analysing the treatment administered in each case the airline's medical services branch could see what equipment and drugs needed to be carried.

Over 18 new injectable drugs have been included to deal with problems such as heart and respiratory conditions, allergic reactions, gastric problems and diabetes.

Another important addition is a newly-developed sub-lingual spray which can act on the pain associated with angina in 30 seconds.

The administration of this drug is just one element of the extensive medical training which all British Airways cabin crew including mouth-to-mouth and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. The medical kit is now being introduced across the airline's fleet.

Kuwait deposit market quiet

KUWAIT, March 18, (Reuters): Dealers reported a quiet day in Kuwait's deposit market today with little trading in the short-term.

The overnight was seen at around 8-3/8 1/4 following a week of liquidity in that market. Tomorrow next was at 8-1/2 1/4 while spot-next and one week were 8-5/8 3/8.

Fixed periods were little changed and were seen between 8-3/4 9/16 and 8-13/16 9/16.

The Central Bank left its dinar exchange rate at 0.2913/23 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal inter-bank deposits were steady in a typically dull market, with many offshore operators absent due to the European weekend.

Dealers said the market remained liquid due to a steady influx of government payments in the past few weeks.

Spot-next and one-week were both quoted at eight, 7-1/2 per cent. The one-month was unchanged at eight, 7-3/4, three-months at 8-1/4, eight and six-months at 8-7/16, 5/16.

Hamad opens Electro '90

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): Commerce and Industry under-secretary Abdullah Hamad Al Hamad today inaugurated the Electro-90 exhibition organised by the Kuwait International Fair Company at the International Fair Grounds in Mishrif.

Al Hamad, in a press statement after opening the fair, said that the exhibition has grouped the most advanced electronics equipment produced by international factories.

He praised the efforts exerted to arrange the displayed items and pointed out that prices had been carefully monitored so as to avoid an increase in their value.

Twenty six companies and local agents are taking part in the week-long exhibition.

Polyethylene plant to be built

JAKARTA, March 18, (Opecna): Two Japanese companies have announced that they will jointly build a polyethylene plant in Indonesia with an installed capacity of 200,000 tonnes annually.

According to industry sources in Tokyo, the two firms — Mitsui and Sumitomo — will sign a co-operation agreement next month with British Petroleum and Ares Petroleum of Indonesia for the construction of the plant.

The plant, the first of its kind to be built in Indonesia will cost \$100 million to complete. Just over half the project cost will come from BP with Ares Petroleum investing most of the remainder.

Chancellor expected to hike tax allowances

Major faces delicate high wire act in tough budget

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major, the son of a circus trapeze artist, will walk a political and economic tightrope when he presents his first budget on Tuesday.

With both the economy and the ruling Conservative Party in trouble, Major has a tough choice between doing nothing to ease the pain of high inflation and interest rates or prescribing even harsher medicine in the hope it will improve things later.

It will be the first budget speech in the British parliament to be televised, but there is little prospect it will make exciting

viewing. Major, 46, took over as chancellor after the abrupt resignation of Nigel Lawson in October. Despite his circus background, he is known as the dull, grey man of the cabinet and economists are predicting a dull, grey budget.

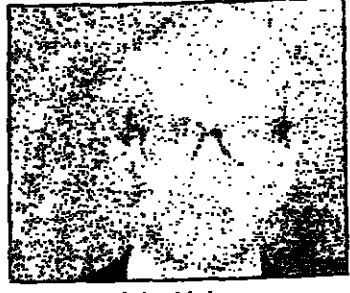
Major is under pressure to pull an economic rabbit out of the hat and reverse the slump in the government's popularity, which has shown a steady downward curve for the past year.

But with economic growth slowing, the trade deficit widening and wage costs rising, he cannot afford to take any action that would fuel inflation.

The Conservatives are trailing the opposition Labour Party by up to 21 points in opinion polls, largely because of a new per capita levy or "poll tax" which will make millions of voters poorer when it comes into force in England and Wales on April 1.

Other economic factors are also worrying the electorate. Inflation is stubbornly high, at a current annual rate of 7.7 per cent, and is expected to rise even higher.

Bank interest rates of 15 per cent are hurting the two-thirds of British families which have borrowed money to buy their own homes.



John Major
Unless Major conjures up a miracle, the Conservative look set to suffer a crushing loss to Labour two days after the budget, by losing a ballot for a

parliamentary seat in Central England in the biggest by-election upset for more than 50 years.

"Mr Major's first budget as Chancellor could not come against a more difficult background with... the political fallout from high interest rates, the fear of recession on one hand and the intensification of inflationary pressures on the other," said a report by economist James Capel.

Economists are divided. If the budget is not tough enough, they fear it will force up base interest rates even further. If it is too tough, it will lead to more

government unpopularity and a consequent weakening of sterling.

To avoid increasing the pressure on the economy, Major is expected to increase tax allowances and most excise duties only in line with inflation.

Thatcher has signalled the budget will be tough rather than draconian. Saying there was no question of raising income tax levels, she told parliament that Britain would "continue to have lower tax rates than any time since the last war."

Lawson cut basic tax rates by two per cent and slashed the

higher rate level from 60 to 40 per cent in his 1988 budget.

The Conservatives won their third consecutive general election the previous year largely on the strength of their handling of the economy.

Major is well aware of party fears that if he cannot bring inflation and interest rates down soon, it will cost the Conservatives power in the next general election, due by mid-1992.

"This budget is going to be judged in terms of its political astuteness rather than any economic implications," said economist Neil Mackinnon.

East-West economic talks in Bonn

Hopes and fears to be highlighted

BONN, March 18, (Reuters): One day after East Germany's first democratic elections, top officials and industrialists from East and West met in Bonn to discuss the hopes and fears raised by the breakthrough pace of Europe's economic integration.

The 35-nation gathering starting tomorrow, an offshoot of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), will be dominated by conflicting emotions generated by collapse of the post-war economic order which divided East and West.

For nations such as Poland, Hungary, the Soviet Union and East Germany, the fear is that their ramshackle economies, drained of investment by decades of central planning, will be swallowed up by the capitalists of Western Europe and North America.

For Western democracies, buoyed by the victory of free enterprise over the centralised economy, the hope of breaking into lucrative new markets of nearly 400 million people is tempered by growing problems with joint ventures and concerns that



Helmut Kohl

events could be moving too fast for comfort.

Nowhere is this felt more strongly than in West Germany as government officials wait to see how quickly East Germany's newly-elected government will pursue the goal of monetary union, widely seen as the first step to a single German state.

"The goal of making East Germany a blossoming industrial area can only be accomplished if the constructions are correct," said Hans Tietmeyer, a director

of the Bundesbank.

"It would be far too high a price if the introduction of the West German mark in East Germany meant that our monetary policy could not remain stable," he told Hessischer Rundfunk radio today. "No one can or wants to pay that price."

The remarks by Tietmeyer, one of West Germany's top monetary officials, underlined the question uppermost in the West: who pays the bill for supporting the East bloc states?

The Bonn conference, to be addressed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl tomorrow, will last for three weeks, splitting up quickly after opening speeches into four working groups to examine practical problems of economic co-operation.

When the 35 nations — all of Europe except Albania plus the United States and Canada — agreed in early January last year to hold the conference, few governments in East or West could have foreseen the crumbling of communist power.

This has given the meeting an added sense of urgency and, with over 1,000 government officials, bankers and industrialists registered, it will be the biggest gathering of East and West since the Berlin Wall fell last November.

Working groups will concentrate on how to increase business contacts, the legal framework for joint ventures, new areas for co-operation such as energy and environment and how to make "soft" East European currencies convertible.

European Economic Community delegates, who met on Sunday to co-ordinate their position, are expected to argue that the East must clarify the legal framework governing Western investment.

Confusion in the Soviet Union, where there are no less than 22 laws or decrees on ventures, and uncertainty in East Germany during the interim administration of communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow, has tempered some of the businessmen's euphoria.

Indian economy slows down

Inflation jumps

NEW DELHI, March 18, (Agencies): The Indian economy grew by only 4.5 per cent during fiscal year 1989-90, with industrial growth declining and agricultural production falling short of its projected goal, a government survey said yesterday.

The rate was well below that of the previous year's growth rate of 10.4 per cent and the average growth rate of 5.9 per cent achieved during the previous four years.

"The performance of the economy during 1989-90 shows signs of a slowdown in output growth," the government said in its annual economic survey of the 1989-90 financial year, which began April 1, 1989. "It is estimated that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth during 1989-90 will be around 4 to 4.5 per cent."

The new government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh released the survey to parliament three days before Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate was scheduled to present his budget for fiscal year 1990-91, which begins April 1.

The survey said the industrial growth rate expanded slowly by 5.2 per cent in the first eight months of fiscal year 1989-90. Last year's growth rate for the same time period was a relatively dramatic 9.4 per cent.

Meanwhile, the manufacturing sector recorded a low 3.6 per cent growth rate — less than half of the previous year's growth of 10.2 per cent, the survey said.

The survey estimated that production of wheat, rice, corn and other grains would increase by 1.8 per cent to about 173 million tons — a shade below the target of 175 million tons set for 1989-90. Still, the estimated production of 173 million tons was a record crop for the second consecutive year.

The report noted that the rate of inflation jumped from 5.3 per cent in fiscal year 1988-89 to 7.7 per cent in fiscal year 1989-90.

Poor fiscal planning by the government and a shortage of essential items like sugar, tea, vegetable oils and textiles were responsible for the inflation, the report said.

India's balance of payments situation has remained under considerable pressure during 1989-90. Data available till December 1989 indicate that exports have recorded an increase of 38.3 per cent while imports have registered a relatively slow growth of 20.7 per cent, in terms of rupees.

Significantly, the trade deficit of Rs 5,518 million the first nine months decline by 16.4 per cent. Net invisibles, on the other hand, are unlikely to show any improvement because of uncertain trends in net private transfers, relatively slow growth of tourist trade and a steady increase in interest payments on past borrowings.

According to the economic survey report presented in parliament yesterday the strain on the balance of payments have been particularly severe since 1988-89. Several adverse medium-term factors have contributed to this situation.

They include, the declining self-sufficiency in production of consumption of crude oil and petroleum products from the peak attained in 1984-85, the steady erosion of surpluses in invisibles account in financing the trade deficit, the unfavourable climate in concession assistance and a bunching of debt service payments on past borrowings from diverse external sources, including the IMF.

The continuing strain on the balance of payment is reflected in depletion of the country's foreign exchange reserves which stood at Rs 5,510 million at the end of January, 1990.

The government has been attaching high importance to an improvement in balance of payment situation. This is sought to be achieved through acceleration of export growth, efficient import substitution, reduction of procedural bottlenecks to export and improvements in infrastructural facilities for exports.

The survey points out in combating inflation the scope for manoeuvrability is limited on the supply side due to reduced stocks of food and foreign exchange reserves. The solution of inflationary pressure has to be sought principally on the demand side, with particular attention being devoted to correcting the underlying fiscal imbalances.

This requires a multipronged approach of encompassing tight budgeting and control over public expenditure, substantial broadening of the tax base and improvement in the field of collections from existing taxes along with much better physical and financial performance of public sector enterprises. The resolution of government fiscal problems will require arduous efforts and difficult decisions on the expenditure front.

Other elements raise taxes and utility costs, tighten the money supply and cut government subsidies and tax incentives.

"We run the risk of a brutal recession and of continued inflation with devastating social costs," said Aldo Lorenzetti, director of the private Sao Paulo State Industrial Federation.

"The monetary shock would tear the economy apart."

Some economists said the freezing of savings accounts, aimed at wealthy individuals and corporations, could prevent economic growth.

"The imprisonment of the wealthy will not liberate the poor," said Paulo Rabello de Castro, an economist of the Getulio Vargas Foundation. "This could well cause general shortages of goods and services."

Several businessmen said they may lack liquid funds to pay salaries.

"The remedy dosage is so strong it could kill the patient," said Roberto Nicolau Jeba, another Sao Paulo state industrial federation official. "Just keeping workers employed will be a problem, let alone raising salaries."

The measures will be hard felt by middle- and upper-class Brazilians — many of whom supported Collor de Mello. Savings earmarked to pay for vacations, homes or automobiles are now tied up for 18 months under his plan.

"It's frustrating. You save a little to try to get ahead and they lock your money away in the

Mexican economy growing

MEXICO CITY, March 18, (UPI): The Mexican economy, which triggered a Third World debt crisis when it plunged in the early 1980s, grew by 2.9 per cent in 1989 — the highest growth in five years, the Planning and Budget Ministry said yesterday.

A ministry statement said preliminary figures released by the National Institute of Statistics, geography and informatics indicated that almost all economic sectors showed an upward trend, pushing the annual growth rate on the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 2.9 per cent in 1989 compared to 1988.

The statement did not disclose the amount of the country's GDP for 1989, but observers say it is expected to be about \$200 billion.

The growth trend shows the economy heading toward the goal set in Mexico's national development plan for the 1989-1994 period, the ministry said.

Since assuming office in December 1988, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has pushed through wide-ranging reforms in the national economy.

Under the plan, withdrawals from savings accounts would be limited to the equivalent of about \$1,200. People with greater savings will have more access to their money after 18 months, during which it will earn 6 per cent interest plus inflation.

The same rules will apply to short-term deposits the government uses to finance its deficit, which have paid interest rates of up to 100 per cent a month.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil's biggest city and banking and industrial hub, many stores and restaurants shut down, taxis stopped circulating and sidewalk vendors disappeared Saturday.

In Rio, the fourth day of an enforced bank holiday, virtually halted business. Block-long lines formed at automatic bank machines to withdraw a maximum of about \$47 in cash.

Collor de Mello also announced the return of the cruzeiro currency, which replaces the 14-month-old new cruzeiro. The cruzeiro is the fourth currency in the last four years and seventh in the country's history.

The cruzeiro will be equal to one new cruzeiro, valued at about 2.5 cents officially, but worth about half that on the street.

"First we had cruzeiros, then cruzeiros, then new cruzeiros and now back to cruzeiros?" said Assaide de Soares, 24, a saleswoman in a Rio clothes shop. "It's hard to trust leaders who play with your money and raise the price of everything."

\$1.2b deal

Pathe Communications Corp president Giancarlo Parretti (left) talks with the chairman of MGM/UA Jeffrey Barbakow during their press conference in Orvieto on Saturday. Pathe is seeking to buy MGM/UA and is confident the proposed \$1.2 billion deal would be closed 60 days ahead of schedule. (Reuters wirephoto)

IMF approves \$598m loan to Belgrade

WASHINGTON, March 18, (UPI): The International Monetary Fund yesterday approved a \$598 million 18-month loan to support the Yugoslav government's economic programme.

According to the multilateral organisation, the programme's primary objective is to bring inflation down quickly while safeguarding the external position of the economy.

The Yugoslav strategy relies in its initial phase on the anchors of a fixed nominal exchange rate for the national currency, the dinar, a strict cap on nominal wages, and a partial price freeze.

These anchors are supported by a severely restrictive monetary policy and a major fiscal effort. The fiscal efforts include increased revenues from sales taxes and customs duties.

Key structural reform elements of the programme are the transformation of banks from institutions owned by enterprises into fully capitalised, profit-motivated institutions with equity ownership, the transformation of socially owned enterprises into legal entities with proper capital and clear ownership status, and the removal of legal restrictions affecting privately owned companies and enterprises with mixed ownership, the IMF said.

The IMF said the programme is designed to bring inflation down quickly while safeguarding the external position of the economy.

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SHIPPING

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAH PORT AS ON 18/03/90			
SL No.	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel No.
8	Sham	ISA	2441860
9	Catherine V	ISA	4843150
12-13	Arabian Sea	Algh Barwil	4843288
17	Yuanping	Wolod Zakh	2401900
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAH PORT			
ETA	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel No.
18/3	Im Alabbar	ISA	4843150
19/3	Zarka	ISA	4843150
19/3	Mohd Bazar	Algh Barwil	3401900
19/3	Filicea	Algh Barwil	4740618
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAH PORT			
SL No.	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel No.
18	Im Majid	ISA	4843150
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAH PORT			
ETA	Ship's Name	Agent	Tel No.
19/3	El Odeh	ISA	2441860
20/3	Norman Ranger	Algh Barwil	4842988
20/3	Westphalia	Al Kamil	2425437
25/3	KIA Walad	ISA	4843150
31/3	Al Wajda	ISA	4843150
4/4	Centex Yunis	Algh Barwil	4842988
8/4	Rana M	Algh Barwil	4745533
8/4	Willie Orient	ISA	4843150

Compiled by: Algharbi Barwil Shipping Co. WLL, Tel: 4843288/4843150 Fax: 4843150, Tel: 22094 BARWIL, KT, Tel: 30894 RLK RT

Al Sayer introduces tomorrow after-sales facilities today

Mr. A. Yakoi, Director, Toyota Motor Corporation, Japan.

Mr. Naser Mohamed Al Sayer, Chairman.

Bridging the gap between customer sales and after-sales facilities, the Al-Sayer Group of Companies is expanding with the installation of computer systems which will alleviate the need for customers to painstakingly log down intricate repairs and service history. All this will be available on computer located by both customer name and vehicle registration number, as will be customer handling and billing.

The new computer system, which will be fully operational by July 1990, is an integral part of revised servicing and maintenance procedures which are being implemented within the entire service framework. Benefits to the customers include reduction in costs of servicing and repairs, and quality on par with the best in the world. In the very near future, the Al-Sayer Group will extend full guarantees with their servicing.

With the opening of this new Reception Area, and all its concurrent benefits, Al-Sayer are proving that success is not just know-how, but to know what to do. With such a strong emphasis on all-round customer satisfaction, Al-Sayer are becoming pioneers of world-class after-service facilities.

EVENTS

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1990

Annual Ethnic Day



Kuwait



Egypt



Korea



Palestinian dabkeh



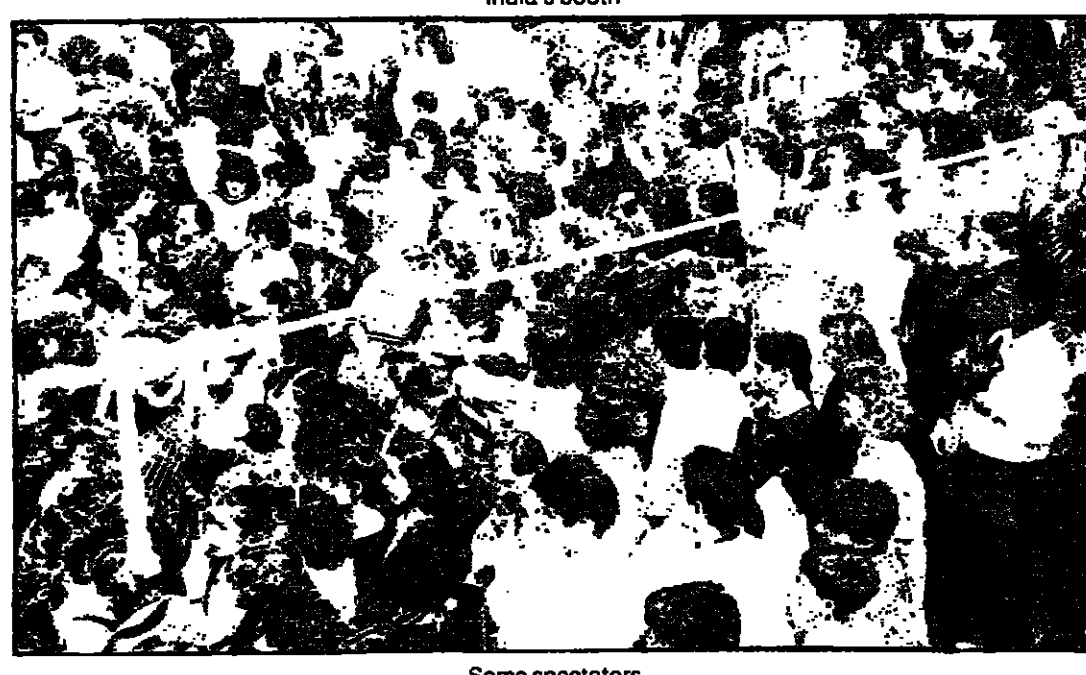
Filipino planting dance



India's booth



Lebanese dabkeh



Some spectators

OVER 1,600 students, staff and parents celebrated the annual Ethnic Day at the Universal American School recently. Displays of handicrafts, costumes and posters were available in each of the 23 booths, along with enough food to feed everyone.

A highlight of the displays was a quilt representing the 50 United States. Students in two fifth grade classes, under the direction of art teacher Joan Rock, designed squares showing a state map and two or three symbols representing the state and then combined the squares

to form a traditional American quilt. The grand parade began at 11:30, with students wearing their national costumes, led by a student carrying the flag of their country as they marched before the audience while their national anthem played. Flags were made by art teacher

Judith Blake, assisted by high school students.

The ethnic show followed. Led by Kuwaiti students performing a local dance, students from their countries, including the Palestinian and Lebanese dabkeh, Egyptian songs and dances,

East Asian dances, Korean taekwondo, Filipino traditional planting and harvest dances, East Asian folk dances representing Bangladesh and Pakistan, Canadian folk songs, and American folk dance. Joining the students performers was an adult group of Polish musicians.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Watercolours of Arabia

Recent watercolours by Patricia Mills on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajab Museum, Jabriya, Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397 or 5318060.

SAS Hotel

EXHIBITION of water colour and oil paintings as well as stained glass at the lobby until March 20.

SOCIAL

Holi - Festival of Colours

THE IAC is celebrating the festival of colours to commemorate the coming of Spring on Thurs 22nd March at Fun-aites with a suitable programme. Members and their guests are requested to contact the IAC office (3904817), Sharma (2644863), Raman (3903879), Mathews (4343329), Srivastava (4898162) or Munshi (2423740) for details and passes. Because of limitations, passes are available on first-come-first-serve basis.

Ladies International League of Kuwait upcoming events

LIL Desert Picnic on Friday, March 23, 1990. Members and their guests. For further information and tickets please contact Barbara on 5325131. Deadline for tickets is March 17.

Daniella Desert Rally

The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik - Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre presents "Oh Clarence", a comedy by John Chapman, adapted from the books of P.G. Wodehouse. Gala Night is on March 19, 1990, at 7.30 pm with other performances on March 20, 21 and 22 at 8.00 pm. Tickets can be booked by phoning 3919759.

Badesik Picnic

Bangladesh Diploma Engineers' Society in Kuwait (Badesik) has organised its annual picnic to be held in Mangaf family beach on March 23. The events included the prize distribution of recently completed indoor games and the children sports to be played on the spot. Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest.

All Badesik member's are requested to contact general secretary Khalilur Rahman on tele 4330025 for more details.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen. Join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Bangladesh get-together

A NUMBER of Bangladeshi families will hold a spring get-together at the Rawda Park, Damascus Street on March 23. The day-long programme, which starts at 8 am, will include children's games, ladies and gents games and bingo. For details, contact telephone 3725312, 4315352, 4715734, or 3713923.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxit Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Istiqbal Pharmacy
Safat Square
Sharqiya Pharmacy
Helali St.
Hawalli & Nagra
Hawalli Pharmacy
Tunis St.

Shakespeare's Macbeth

THE London Shakespeare Group, who have already received rave reviews for their performance of Macbeth in Bahrain, Doha, Muscat and the Emirates, will perform at the Kuwait English School, Salwa on March 21 and 22, 1990 at 8 pm and on March 23, 1990, at 6 pm. The cast includes professional actors and actresses with classical backgrounds, who have appeared at the London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End theatres, television and radio. All seats are numbered, and can be reserved by ringing 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143 or 5731782.

Drama

"BANDHAN Nattya Chakra." Kuwait, a Bengali Drama Group, is going to perform its third stage show a Bengali Drama by the name "Boudir Beey" on 22nd March Thursday 1990 at 5 pm in the Starlight Theatre hall of Doha Entertainment City, Kuwait.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh in Kuwait, K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guests.

For entry cards, please contact the following persons: Abdur Rab, tel: 4316823, Jasim Uddin, tel: 2420484, Video A to Z, tel: 3924320.

British Council

Do you want to learn English in Britain or maybe you know someone who does? If so, come along the Education Office at The British Council on Monday March 19 or Tuesday March 20. We will be showing videos about language schools in Britain and giving away lots of information about courses, fees, accommodation etc. All are welcome!

Children's Books of the Year 1989 Exhibition - March 10-22 at The British Council Gallery.

Wednesday, March 21, 6.00 pm - Film showing: Asterix in Britain. The Movie. Go back, far back in time when the Britons stopped fighting for a tea break at 4.00 pm and everyone drank hot water with a little milk because tea hadn't been discovered yet. (75 min).

Thursday, March 22, 10.30 am. Story Time by a professional story teller.

Please book seats by calling Tel. 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Rose Ferns' drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinx" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

HOTELS

Bita 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

Le Meridien

AL WAHA Cafe features Crepe Festival until 22nd March. Crepes (thin pancakes) are prepared in front of the guest at a special counter. Choice of dessert fillings include fruit salad with cream custard and strawberry sauce, sliced fruit with orange sauce, strawberry with whipped cream, melba sauce and almond, and sliced banana with chocolate sauce. Choice of topping include chocolate, honey, jam or marmalade, maple syrup and chantilly cream.

Al Fingan Tea Lounge will feature Bananarama Festival from 18th until 22nd March. One can have a variety of choices of mouthwatering banana sweets such as banana fritters with honey, banana tart, banana tartelettes, chocolate banana and banana charlotte. Special banana drinks include banana milk shake and banana strawberry cocktail. One can also enjoy our special banana split ice cream.

SPORTS

Daniella Bowling

ALL Danes are invited to participate in the first ever Daniella Bowling Tournament on April 5, 1990, at 6 pm. For further information and registration please call Connie - Tel: 3715637 or Marianne - Tel: 3720137 before March 26.

Salmiya
Qurtuba Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street
Fahad
Ahmadi Pharmacy
Ahmadi Souk
Kheitan
Tawfiq Pharmacy
Southern Street
Jahra
Al Nour Pharmacy
Matafi Street

WHAT'S ON

KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Shuaa min al madhi: Arabic Serial (part 26)
11.45 From my Kitchen: Local programme
12.05 Sabah Al Kher News
12.15 Al Malqouf: Local weekly serial (final part), Starring: Abdul Husan Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber and Abdullah Khraibit
12.30 News Summary
12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown
Evening
4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran

4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham al fadha: Cartoon Serial
5.15 Mama Anisa and children: local children programme, prepared by Samiya Mohammed and presented by Mama Anisa
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Wa Qalat Al Arab: Historical serial, starring Mohammed Wafeeq, Hassan Husni, Aliya Abdul Menem
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Holy Quran and science: Religious programme (part 2), prepared and Presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi
8.00 Cultural serial

8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Omsiyat Al Ethneen: Local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjes
10.15 Lil adala wajh akhar: Arabic serial (part 6)
10.15 Al Mawed: Variety programme (final part), prepared and presented by Tawfeeq Khallaf
12.15 News summary
12.30 The World Today via Satellite
12.45 Holy Quran and Closedown
KTV 2
6.00 Opening Announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 Winnie The Pooh: A cartoon series for children

6.30 Wild South "The first born Zoo" A look at the Seal its way of life and growth...
7.00 Roving Report. A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news.
7.30 Trap: "The Iron Cage" Curiosity leads Pier and his girl-friend Mary to challenge the secret of the existence of monks in a deserted monastery. They are obliged to call the police!!
8.00 News in English
8.30 Around the World. A variety of topics and events from all over the world...
9.30 Tour of Duty: "Sealed with a kiss" Zeke, considers a CIA recruiter's offer to make a lot of money as

a mercenary. He and Goldman go on a dangerous mission with a Navy Seal and find themselves in a jungle without a radio or supplies!!
10.30 A Colourised Story. Starring: Cary Grant, Catherine Hbborn. Dexter plans to foil the marriage of "Tracy" his ex-wife ... in the meantime George surprises his fiancée "Tracy" with Dexter's friend...
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite
PRAYERS
Fajr 4.34 am
Zohr 11.56
Asr 3.23 pm
Maghreb 5.59
Isha 7.15

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Al Sakmiyah
D.O.A.
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
North Shore

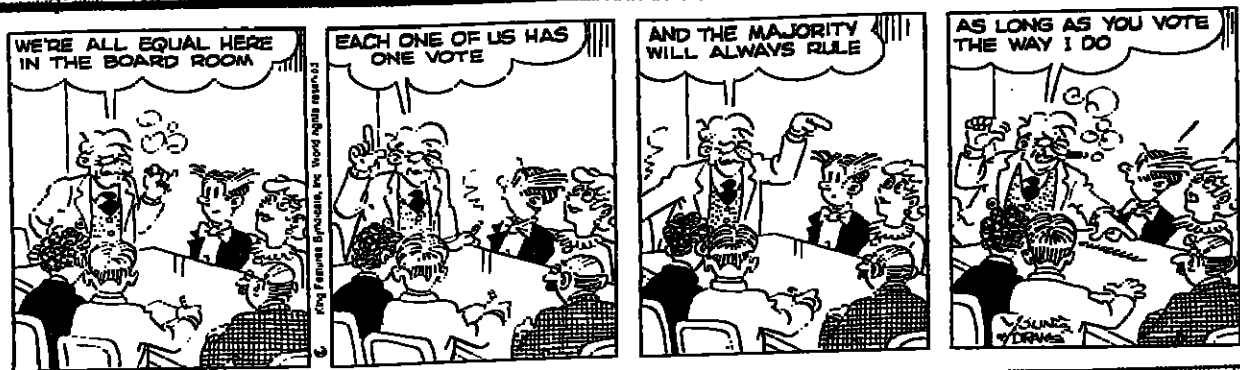
Al Firdous
Kanoon Apna Apna
Fahad Open
Ghar mein Ram gali mein
Shyam
Fahad
Feds

Al Jahra
Combat Killer
Granada
Born Killer
Salabikhat
Roar

Jleeb
Bhul Bichar
Ahmadi Drive-in
Enter the Dragon

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



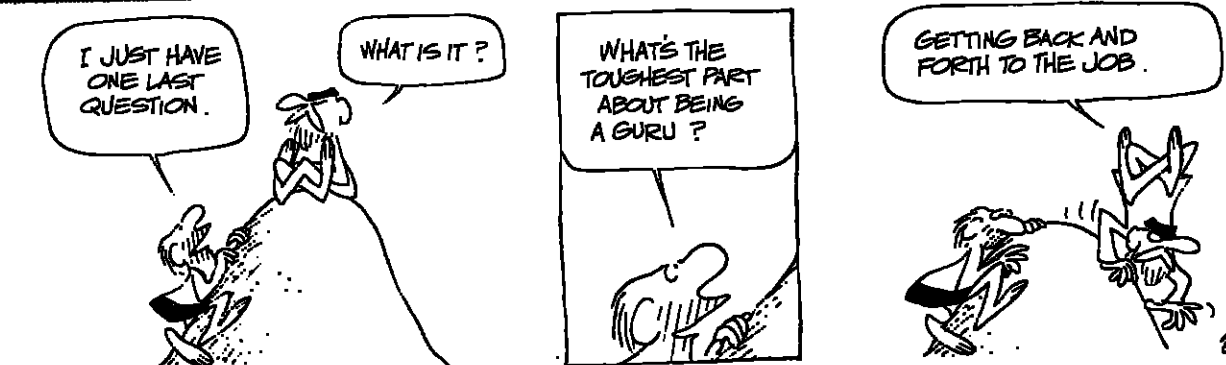
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



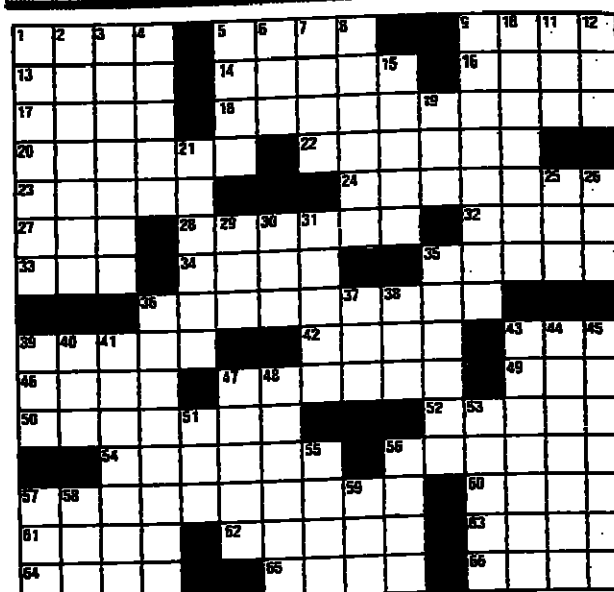
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By D. Fortson & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Mars;

5 Ten; Prefix

9 "Saturday Night"

13 Sacred Hindu writings

14 Overact

16 Rara avis

17 News item, for short

18 Presidential snake?

20 Provides party food

22 Part of a BLT sandwich

23 Make amends

24 Earned

27 — Rosen-kavaler

28 Humiliator

32 Verne's captain

33 Predecessor of the CIA

34 Stratagem

35 Eatery

36 Adventurous presidential aviator?

39 Pungent

42 Once more

43 By, in

46 Cell body

47 "On — Pond": 1981 film

49 One, to Burns

50 Cheaper

52 Stones

54 Two-handed card game

56 South American capital

57 Amateur presidential baseball teams?

60 Actor Jannings

61 Poker stake

62 Go around the edge

63 Appellation

DOWN

1 Guacamole base

2 Discount allowances

3 Revisers

4 Of a cereal grain

5 Labor leader

6 Australian bird

7 Outlay

8 In

9 Preoccupied with something

10 Two — equals five

11 Symbol of triumph

12 Go astray

15 Feed grain

19 Bern's river

21 Rise, like Silver

25 Scottish uncle

26 Rimsky-

29 Omni or mini follower

30 Wood for skis

31 Flower part

35 — earth (practical)

36 Nesting places

37 East of Ill.

38 Jackie's sister

39 JFK sight

40 — polio

41 General pardon

43 Mount —, Calif.: Observatory site

44 Former

45 Used cars

47 Actor Richard and family

48 Give — a little (roughly)

51 Adjectival suffix

53 Hollywood figure

55 Sponsorship

56 — none

57 Belfry resident

58 Dos predecessor

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 20

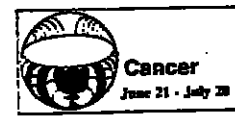
You will find it easier to make up your mind and will reach the right decision too. You should resist a tendency to dwell on the past. Avoid blaming other for what is not their fault. Be candid.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

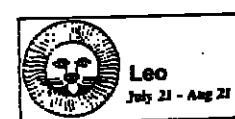
Take things more as they come and reserve your efforts for where they can make the most impact. Pay a little more attention to your health and be more careful about infection. Do not allow sales talk to "take you in". Be a little more reticent.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will be rather annoyed with someone else but should not make too great a fuss about it. Try to restrict yourself to essentials for the moment. Details can follow later. Do your best to avoid stress and strain. Be less insistent.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You will have a lot to do but if you concentrate you will also get a lot done. Something you thought you had already done will turn out still to need doing. You should not close to your mind to change. Be responsible for your actions.

Leo
July 21 - Aug 21

You will be entranced by some novelty but it is likely to prove a disappointment after a while. You should do your best to avoid getting bogged down in detail. Do not make a nuisance of yourself nor allow others to do that to you. Be more cautious.

Virgo
Aug 22 - Sept 22

You will now become more familiar with using a new device and you will be greatly relieved as a result. Your lucky numbers are 7 and 24. You should avoid eating so much that you upset your stomach.

Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22

You have the wind in your sails but are you sure you are heading in the right direction? You should not wait until later instead do what has to be done right away. If you press too hard you may spoil it all. Be less voluble.

Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

You should not expect to have everything your own way. Your health is not quite so good, but there is no need to fear the worst. You should not allow yourself to become frustrated because you cannot make a new device work. It will come to you with practice.

Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 20

You will tire more easily and should try to conserve your energies. A mistake should be corrected at once: it will not just go away. Do not allow your emotions to be bottled up but do not be dominated by them either. Be discrete.

Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 19

You will discover a mistake you have made in time to correct it. You should be a little more patient, you cannot expect overnight success. You should try to think and act a little more positively. Be amenable.

Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19

You will have your wits more about you and this will help you not to fall into a trap. Do not tell others what to do, but do listen to what they tell you, you should do. Try to show a just a little more goodwill. Be reliable.

Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20

Something that has been a bit of a mystery to you will now fall into place. You should take pleasure in little things too. And do not always feel that others are better off than you are — mostly they are not. Be more helpful.

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NORTH

♠ 4 2

♥ 6

♦ 10 9 6 4 3

♣ 8 7 6 5 2

WEST

♠ 10 8 7 5

♥ K Q 9 4 3

♦ A K Q 5

♣ Void

EAST

♠ 9 6 3

♥ J 10 5

♦ J 8 7

♣ A K J 9

SOUTH

♠ A K Q J

♥ A 8 7 2

♦ 2

♣ Q 10 4 3

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Dbl 3 ♠ Pass

Pass Dbl Pass

Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

On many hands, to achieve optimum results the defenders must convey to each other their respective length in key suits. Sometimes, however, that information can only help the declarer. It is then incumbent on the defenders to follow suit randomly so declarer does not get a picture of the distribution.

Since East had not yet bid, West's

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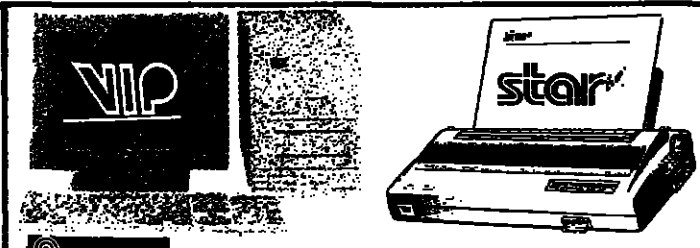
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Garrison and Mayotte eliminated Capriati stuns Sukova again



Becker, struggled past Santoro

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., March 18, (Reuters): American teenager Jennifer Capriati upset sixth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-2 6-3 for the second consecutive week to advance to the third round of the \$2.55 million International Players Tennis Championships yesterday.

Second-seeded Zina Garrison of the United States was upset by Julie Halard of France 2-6 6-3 6-4 and men's second seed Boris Becker of West Germany struggled before defeating qualifier Fabrice Santoro of France 6-3 5-7 6-2 in his second-round match of the 96-player tournament.

Top-seeds and defending champions Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and Gabriela Sabatini were both winners. Lendl struggled but defeated Jens Woehrman of West Germany 6-7 (3-7) 6-2 6-1. Sabatini had fewer problems beating Sandra Wasserman of Belgium 6-3 6-4.

Fifth-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain ousted South African Dinky van Rensburg 3-6 7-6 (9-7) 7-6 (7-4) in a three-hour and five-minute marathon played almost entirely from the

baseline.

Sixth-seeded Aaron Krickstein was upset by Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 1-6 7-6 (8-6) 6-3, while eighth-seeded Tim Mayotte fell easily to Soviet Alexander Volkov 6-1 6-4 in other second round matches.

Capriati, who reached the finals of her first professional tournament in Boca Raton, Florida, last week by beating Sukova, said that she was more confident and more cautious this week for that very reason.

"Today, I knew what to expect, but she also knew how to play me this time so I knew I had to play better. I think I played very well today. I wasn't really expecting to win either time, but I'm really happy I did," Capriati said.

Capriati took advantage of very erratic tennis from Sukova as well as nine double-faults, including three in one game, from Sukova's normally reliable serve.

Sukova pounded her heavy topspin groundstrokes and opened the match with a 2-0 lead before Capriati's groundstrokes caught fire and bewildered Sukova by repeatedly hitting the

lines.

Sukova, 10th in the world, was bewildered by her play and had no explanation for her performance against the teenager.

"I didn't expect to play this badly. I felt I knew what to do, but when you can't hit the ball in the court, that doesn't mean anything," Sukova said.

Garrison, fourth in the world, played two loose forehands and dropped her serve at 4-4 in the final set against Halard, who kept Garrison away from the net most of the match.

Halard, 74th in the world, held her serve in the 10th game to close out the match by waiting for Garrison to force the point and make an error, as she did the entire match.

Other winners included the third-seeds Stefan Edberg of Sweden and Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and fourth-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria.

Becker, who asked for a spot in the tournament just three days before it began, squandered a match point at 5-4 in the second set when he netted a backhand.

The 165th-ranked Santoro could not contain second-ranked Becker's serve in the third set.

McAuley outpoints American

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, March 18, (AP): Dave McAuley, scoring almost at will, retained his International Boxing Federation flyweight title yesterday with a unanimous decision over Louis Curtis of the US.

On St Patrick's night, the 28-year-old Irish champ received a rapturous welcome from the 7,000 crowd at Belfast's King's Hall and responded by outclassing his opponent from the opening bell.

It was McAuley's first fight at home since winning the title last summer.

Using his superior height and reach, he was in control throughout, switching punches from head to body.

The nearest McAuley came to knocking out Curtis was in the third round when a left hook to the body wobbled the challenger. But Curtis managed to hold on and was saved by the bell.

The three judges made McAuley an easy winner. West Germany's William Gerber gave the champion every one of the 12 rounds, scoring the fight 120-108. American Milton Greene's card had it 119-108 and Ray Francis of Britain scored it 118-109.

McAuley paid tribute to the determination of 32-year-old Curtis, who hadn't fought for 15 months.

"I caught him with some good left hooks and body shots but he was still there," the Irishman said. "You have to hand it to the guy. He took a lot of hard shots. He was a lot stronger than we anticipated."

Curtis came forward for most of the early rounds searching for a target. He couldn't find any range, however, and constantly walked into the champion's punches.

"We thought he would run but he came to fight," said McAuley, whose record improved to 18 wins and two losses after his fifth world title fight. "He did a good job and I take my hat off to him. A lot of fighters crumble under less pressure."

Lohaus takes Bucks past Knicks

NEW YORK, March 18, (AP): Brad Lohaus led seven Milwaukee players in double figures with a season-high 23 points as the problem-plagued Bucks defeated the struggling New York Knicks 123-111 last night.

The loss was the fifth in the last seven home games for the Knicks, who started the season by winning 22 of their first 24 games at Madison Square Garden.

Lohaus, who also had 14 rebounds, was starting in place of Jack Sikma, on the injured list with Sciatica. The Bucks also were missing leading scorer Ricky Pierce because of strep

throat and starter Greg Anderson because of an injured left leg.

Patrick Ewing had 37 points for the Knicks, matching a team record with 24 consecutive games scoring 20 or more. Bernard King had 24 straight 20-point games in 1985.

Hawks 119, Bulls 82
Kenny Smith had 22 points and Dominique Wilkins 17 to lead seven double-figure scorers for Atlanta.

Atlanta, which has won two in a row after dropping four straight, led by as many as 28 points in the second quarter, and had 65-43 halftime lead. The Hawks were ahead by as many as 30 in the second half.

Atlanta got 16 points from Alexander Volkov and 11 from battle and Kevin Willis. Livingston and Doc Rivers each had 10. Jeff Malone led the Bulls with 19 points.

Cavaliers 118, Pacers 102
Guards Mark Price and Craig Ehlo sank 12 of their 16 first-half shots, including three 3-pointers.

The Cavaliers have won four straight since losing six in a row on a West Coast road trip. They still trail the Pacers by one game in a three-way battle for the final two playoff spots in the Eastern Conference. Atlanta has a half-game lead over Indiana. The Pacers have lost five straight, matching their worst

slump of the season.

Price scored 17 of his 26 points in the first half and Ehlo had 15 of his 22, helping Cleveland to a 65-50 halftime lead.

The Cavaliers committed just one turnover in the half while forcing 10 by the Pacers that led to 22 points.

Reggie Miller led Indiana with 30 points.

Results

Atlanta	119	Washington	93
Milwaukee	122	New York	111
Cleveland	118	Indiana	102
L.A. Lakers	101	Minnesota	99
Chicago	114	Philadelphia	109
San Antonio	111	Miami	98
Sacramento	122	Utah	99

GOLF

Filipino beats compatriot in playoff

SINGAPORE, March 18, (Reuters): Antonio Fernando of the Philippines pulled off his first significant golf victory when he took the Singapore Open after a sudden-death playoff against compatriot Frankie Minoza today.

Fernando forced the playoff with a 12-foot eagle putt that brought him level with Minoza on a total of 273 after the regulation 72 holes.

He then collected the first prize of \$50,000 when Minoza had a double bogey at the par-three second hole of their playoff.

Fernando, who hit the edge of the green with his drive and two-putted for a par, said: "This is my first year in the Asian Golf circuit and my first big win."

Two missed 10-foot birdie putts on the last hole of regulation play and on the first hole of the playoff cost Minoza the title. He won \$34,000.

Final leading scores: 273 Antonio Fernando (Philippines) 66 71 67 69, Frankie Minoza (Philippines) 70 65 72 66 (Fernando won at second hole of playoff); 274 Choi Sang-Ho (South Korea) 66 68 71 69; 276 Jack Kay (Canada) 71 66 67 72, Park Nam-Sin (South Korea) 69 66 68 73; 277 John Morse (US) 71 67 70 69, Kuo Chie Hsiung (Taiwan) 68 66 69 74, Stewart Ginn (Australia) 69 69 66 73.

Zhao wins All-England title

LONDON, March 18, (UPI): China's Zhao Jianhua took just 22 minutes to dispatch Indonesian Joko Suprianto 15-4, 15-1 yesterday for the \$10,250 winner's prize in a one-sided men's singles final at the All-England Badminton Championships.

Zhao came off a defeat in the Swedish Open two weeks ago to capture his second All-England title — he beat Morten Frost of Denmark in 1985.

Even so the manner of victory was surprisingly easy as Zhao raced to a 4-0 lead off his third serve hitting two cross court smashes to Suprianto's backhand and one to his forehand before his opponent got on the scoreboard.

Zhao dominated a series of short sharp rallies using his smash well and deceiving Suprianto with disguised drop shots to reach 11-1 and completed the set two services later.

Suprianto, who had defeated second-seeded Malaysian Foo Kok Keong in the quarterfinals and Indonesian compatriot Eddy Kurniawan in the semis, was never able to mount a serious challenge.

Zhao demonstrated his full range of shots to stretch a 3-0 lead to 13-0 in the second set. Suprianto held his progress up briefly before he dinked a return into the net for match point and Zhao hammered the championship winning smash down the centre.

It was the fourth time Suprianto and Zhao, joint fifth seeds here, had met and the Wembley result evened the score at 2-2.

Zhao was surprised at the ease of his win.

"We usually have tough controlled games," he said. "This time Joko did not play so well."

"I don't think I played particularly well today, although it looked excellent because he did not play well."

Zhao thought he was playing better in 1985 when he defeated Frost to capture the crown for the first time.

"I am not consistent enough now," he said, adding that winning a major championship could only add to his confidence.

Top-seeded Indonesian Susi Susanti had few problems winning the women's singles, defeating China's Huang Hua, the second seed, 12-11, 11-1. The victory was doubly sweet for the 19-year-old university student as she was runner up last year and had just seen her compatriot Suprianto hunched in the men's final.

Susanti playing defensively against the attack-minded Hua, quickly reached 6-0 in the first set, but was clawed back to 6-5 and continued to hand Hua points on uncharacteristic errors as the first set deadlocked at 10-10.

The Indonesian managed to pull herself together again to take it on the setting and looking more confident, stretched out a 10-0 lead at the start of the second.

After that she just had to wait for winning chances and when it came she put a cross-court backhand out of Hua's reach to clinch the \$6,500 winner's cheque.

"After 10-5, I became too careful with my shots and made mistakes," Susanti said. "But I was surprised the second set was so easy."

Susanti changed her tactics for the second. "Having won the first, I felt I could make more attacks," said the former world junior champion.

"I went into the game intending not to make mistakes against Hua who is a more attacking player than Zhou Lee (her Chinese opponent in the semifinals).

"My next target is the World Championship," she added.

Indonesian team manager Leo Wiranata said of the champion:

"Indonesia has a very young team which we have been building for four years. It will be at its peak for the 1992 Olympics."

decision.

Judge Jerry Roth scored the fight 108-101 and Dave Moretti had it 107-102 in favour of Taylor. Judge Chuck Giampa scored the bout 105-104 in favour of Chavez. All three judges are American.

"It was a bad call," Duva said after the fight. "I think he (Steele) screwed up. In a fight of this magnitude, you have to let him go."

"I thought that we won the fight. The referee took the fight away from us. Cesar Chavez is a great champion, but Meldrick Taylor will beat him the next time out," said Duva, who also trains heavyweight contender Evander Holyfield.

"We looked at the tape four times. He got knocked down but he got up at the count of five. Nothing was ever wrong with him out there."

Taylor was taken to hospital suffering from dehydration and cuts.

Chavez was asked where he thought he stood entering the final round.

"I was feeling that the fight was even," Chavez said. "I thought I was going to win."



Chavez (right) swings at Taylor. (Reuters wirephoto).

Taylor, bleeding from the mouth, nose and left cheek, hammered away at Chavez early in the 12th round. But the American got caught with a series of jarring combinations in the corner.

The final Chavez flurry sent Taylor to the canvas with less than 10 seconds remaining. Taylor was up at about the count of seven, but referee Richard Steele stopped the fight. Steele later said Taylor had not respon-

ded when asked if he was all right. Steele's decision to stop the fight with two seconds left in the round sent a roar through the largely pro-Chavez crowd and sent Taylor's trainer Lou Duva into a rage.

"There's no way in hell he should have stopped this fight," Taylor said afterward.

If Taylor had weathered the final two seconds, the judges cards would later have given the fight to the American on a split

Chavez stops Taylor to retain title

LAS VEGAS, March 18, (Reuters): Mexico's Julio Cesar Chavez overcame a relentless attack by American Meldrick Taylor to score a controversial victory when the referee stopped their fight at two minutes and 58 seconds of the last round last night.

Chavez, 27, boosted his remarkable record to 69-0. He retained his World Boxing Council super lightweight championship and took Taylor's International Boxing Federation title with his last-minute flurry of punches which dropped Taylor to the canvas with less than 10 seconds left in the scheduled 12-round fight.

Chavez was behind on two of the three judges' scorecards and appeared to be headed for the first loss of his 10-year career. Taylor, 23, consistently beat Chavez to the punch throughout much of the fight, landing considerably more punches. Taylor also copied the champion's usual style by counterpunching with great effectiveness.

Taylor, a bloodied but extremely aggressive fighter throughout the fight, dropped to 24-1-1 with the loss.



Steinlager (right) and NCB at the start of the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

Yachts begin 2nd-last leg

PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay, March 18, (AP): Led by Fisher and Paykel of New Zealand and Rothmans of Britain, a fleet of 22 yachts set sail yesterday on the fifth and next-to-last leg of the Whitbread Round the World ocean race.

The New Zealand maxi yacht Steinlager II, winner of the first four legs and holder of a more than one day overall lead in the 33,000-nautical-mile (53,800-kilometre) race was well back in eighth place as the vessels sailed out of this South Atlantic resort in 9-knot southeasterly winds.

Fisher and Paykel, in third place overall, and fourth-place Rothmans quickly moved ahead of the rest of the fleet and, neck-and-neck, headed north for Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 5,475 miles (8,760 kilometres) away.

Trailing the leaders was Fortuna of Spain only seconds ahead of Merit of Switzerland, in second place overall. They were followed by a cluster of yachts, including The Card of Sweden, Satquote Defender of Britain, UBF of Finland, and Steinlager.

Approximately 2,000 spectators cheered and waved from the docks as a cannon blast marked the start at noon (1500GMT) on a cloudy and humid day.

Dozens of small craft, including one with Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle and race officials aboard, escorted the yachts as they manoeuvred into a starting position. Several hundred tourists watched from the decks of the liner Stella Solaris.

The crew of the Irish yacht NCB painted their faces green in honour of St Patrick, but the loudest cheers were reserved for Maiden of Great Britain, with a 16-woman crew.



A general view of the yachts as they begin the 2nd-last leg. (Reuters wirephoto)

Race organizers estimated that weather conditions on the voyage to Fort Lauderdale will be less dramatic than the gales and icebergs the racers faced on earlier legs in the South Atlantic and South Pacific.

The first yachts are expected to reach Florida beginning about April 13. Following an eight-day layover for rest and repairs, the vessels will depart on the 3,837-

mile (6,139-kilometre) final leg to Southampton, England, where the race began last September.

The first leg took the yachts from Southampton to Punta Del Este, the second sent them around Africa to Fremantle, Australia. From there they raced to Auckland, New Zealand, and then back around Cape Horn, to this Uruguayan resort.

Walker takes lead

TUCSON, Ariz., March 18, (Reuters): Colleen Walker shot a seven-under-par 65 for a five-stroke lead after the third round of the \$300,000 Tucson Open women's golf tournament yesterday.

Japan's Ayako Okamoto posted a 71 for the day, putting her one stroke off the pace at 209 total going into the final round today. Americans Heather Drew and Betsy King are tied at 210.

Walker began the round two strokes behind Nancy Rubin, who slipped to seven strokes off the lead with a 74 yesterday.

"I played really solidly all day," Walker said. "I only missed one green day all day and that was the 17th where I holed a 35-foot putt to save par. I heard tweet, tweet, birdie, birdie all day."

Midway leader Jose-Maria Canizares soared to a 78 in the third round of the Tenerife Open Golf Championship yesterday and blamed his loss of form on the expulsion of fellow Spaniard Jose-Maria Olazabal.

Canizares finished three off the pace and said: "I didn't feel like playing because of Olazabal's disqualification."

"I think there are some absurd rules in the professional game that the PGA should change."

Title favourite and defending champion Olazabal was thrown out of the tournament on Friday after admitting he signed for a wrong score. The Spaniard had broken the rules by picking up a stone from a hazard.

Ireland's Christy O'Connor Jr and Britons Steven Bottomley and Tony Charney shared first place with five-under-par totals of 211.

O'Connor's eagle at the third set him up for a round of 66, a score soon matched by Charney, who holed a succession of putts from around 20 feet. Bottomley joined them with a five-birdie 67.

Canizares was level par for the first nine holes but took a triple bogey eight at the 10th then lost his way completely, carding three more bogeys.

Saxby and Bubka set world bests

BRISBANE, Australia, March 18, (Reuters): Australia's Kerry Saxby, who is suffering from a leg injury, improved her own three-km walk world best by more than seven seconds today when she clocked 12 minutes 6.42 seconds in a track race here.

The time was well inside the previous mark of 12:13.75 she set in Sydney in February 1989 despite poor competition from the rest of the field. She beat second-placed Jantien Salfet by almost two minutes.

Saxby, the Commonwealth 10-km road race champion, said after the race that her training had been hindered by a hamstring and thigh problem that she estimated had reduced the power of her right leg by 30 per cent.

"I'm having to do a lot of exercises and work with it but it's coming good," she said. "It's not so much of a problem now that we know what's wrong."

And in Moscow, Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union bettered his own indoor pole vault world record yesterday when he cleared 6.05 metres at an international competition in Donetsk.

Olympic champion Bubka set the previous record of 6.03 in Osaka, Japan, in February 1989.

W. German squad

BONN, March 18, (UPI): Defending champion West Germany, weakened by the absence of star player Boris Becker, yesterday named Carl-Uwe Steeb, Eric Jelen, Michael Stich and Jens Woehrman for the Davis Cup tennis team to meet Argentina in their quarterfinal match in Buenos Aires.

Coach Niki Piliich had to change his lineup after Becker announced he would not play any more for his country in this year's competition.



Former champion

Former world heavyweight champion Mohammed Ali (left) kisses a little boy in the lobby of hotel yesterday. Ali is in Jakarta for a promotional boxing match. (Reuters wirephoto).

Scotland look to world champs

EDINBURGH, March 18. (Reuters) A triumphant Scotland side travel to world championships New Zealand this year, as Europe's rugby union standard-bearers after their stirring 13-7 win over England at Murrayfield yesterday.

No five nations match had ever had as much at stake as yesterday's clash.

The sides were playing not only for the championship but also the Grand Slam, the Triple Crown and the Calcutta Cup.

And, against the odds, it was the Scots who proved the better side to the understandable jubilation of both players and supporters.

Flyhalf Craig Chalmers, who kicked three vital first half penalties, spoke for his team mates when he said: "There were some people, especially in the south, who had written us off before the match had even started."

His comments were echoed by coach Ian McGeechan.

"I think the people who had built England up will have to give us at least a little credit now," he said.

Captain David Sole, reaching for the sportsman's book of clichés, added: "The lads were up to the challenge, every single one of them."

For once the stock phrase of every successful captain and manager was apt.

Expected
Scotland's success was a true team effort in which every player made an important contribution.

The front five were expected to capitulate sooner or later to the fearsome England pack and locks Chris Gray and Damian Cronin were given little chance in the lineout.

In the event, the scrum held firm and Gray and Cronin more than held their own against their towering England opponents Wade Dooley and Paul Ackford.

Whatever Gavin Hastings, who has had a low-key championship by his own high standards, set up the try which effectively killed England's chances two minutes after the interval.

Hastings gathered a pass brilliantly one-handed, made ground on the right then put in the perfect centre kick for Tony Stanger to grab the ball high above his head and score.

"It was a beautiful kick ahead — I was just lucky to be able to latch on to it," Stanger said modestly.

Then as England made a series of desperate forays late in the match it was Hastings' brother Scot whose ankle tapped Rory Underwood as the flying England winger appeared to be in the clear.

A bitterly disappointed England captain Will Carling conceded: "They beat us fair and square. They were sharper."

Jeremy Guscott's 15th-minute try — England's first at Murrayfield since they last won the Grand Slam 10 years ago — was a vivid reminder of the speed and sheer class of the England backline.

But it may have done a disservice to England who seemed so intent on winning with style that they forgot some of the game's basic tenets.

At least twice in the first half they were given penalties well within Simon Hodgkinson's range.

Opted
Six points then would have given England the lead but instead they opted to run the ball and both times they were thwarted by sturdy Scots defence.

England also had their heroes, in particular flyhalf Rob Andrew whose line kicking was one of the features of the match.

However, they have learned a bitter lesson here after their demolition jobs on France and Wales and the verdict must remain open on just how good the current side is.

Scotland will name their squad on Tuesday for the New Zealand visit and McGeechan said the tour would continue his side's learning process.

"They are the best and we've got to keep on building for the 1991 World Cup," he said.

After the match ended the Scots players gave yet another rendition of "Flower of Scotland" as they celebrated in the dressing room.

Lamour triumphs

NEW YORK, March 18. (Reuters) Olympic champion Jean-François Lamour of France survived an early scare to advance to the finals of the New York International Sabre Tournament yesterday.

Lamour overcame a 4-1 deficit against lightly-regarded Waimon Leung of the United States to win his bout 5-4, 5-0 and advance to today's round of 64.



Alexander Wurz, youngest competitor, with Emad Habib.



Lloyd with his trophy.



The Caledonian Pipers. (Photos by Khalil Gabr)

Wilkes wins Middle East Kart Championship

Kuwait's Lloyd takes third place

MIKE WILKES from Dubai won the Middle East Kart Championship, hosted by Kuwait at the Ahmadi Kart Track on Friday. Patrick Walsh, from the UK, took second place while Kuwait's Simon Lloyd was third.

The championship, which was sponsored by the Mahdi Habib Commercial Establishment, Austrian Airlines and British Airways, was held over two days with the preliminaries on Thursday and the race proper on Friday.

The championship was preceded by a hectic week of overcoming problems with the clearance of karts from customs upon arrival in Kuwait and the result of the championship proved an even greater feat in view of the Dubai drivers only having their karts released following clearance shortly before midday on the day prior to the race.

Austrian driver Alexander Wurz, who at 16 years of age was the youngest competitor in the championships had arrived in Kuwait on Monday, and had secured, with the help of one of his sponsors, Austrian Airlines, swift release of his kart thus enabling immediate practice at Ahmadi.

The United Kingdom driver Patrick Walsh arrived one day later on Tuesday, and again with considerable help from British Airways, was able to clear his kart for early practice. Patrick is, in karting circles, a well known member of the John Mills Racing Stable. Patrick was assisted by John's son, Mike Mills who won the championship at Ahmadi in 1988, and whose inside knowledge of the circuit was no doubt of invaluable assistance to his driver.

The meeting started with the first heat with David Haines representing Kuwait in No. 2 kart in the pole position and Rudi Jostura in kart No. 4 from Dubai in antipole. There was excitement



All the drivers in action in the last final.

immediately after the start when Patrick Walsh in No. 20 came into contact with Alexander Wurz in No. 23 and kart numbers 13, 11, 9 and 77 all became entangled in what looked like a battlefield allowing Kuwait's Ray Washer in kart No. 10 to slip through into fourth place. All karts managed to restart except No. 13, Kuwait driver Peter Wakely, whose kart was damaged. David Haines, who missed the melee at the start led the way from Rudi Jostura and his fellow Dubai driver Mike Wilkes, despite a spirited drive by Patrick Walsh. Casualties were the karts of Kieran Dick and James Langer who failed to start and John Ogilvie who made an unplanned exit to the pits when his brakes failed on the straight.

In heat 2 again the karts of Langer and Dick could not complete the warm up laps and David Wheeler in Kuwait kart No. 15 seized his engine and retired on the 1st lap. The battle was on for the lead between Kuwait's Simon Lloyd in kart No. 1 and Patrick Walsh in No. 20 until the 5th lap when both karts came into contact on the banked bend and

Lloyd spun off. The order then changed to Walsh, Wilkes and another Dubai driver, Saeed Hussain which remained the finishing order. Kuwait drivers Baha Akl in No. 22, Tom Colclough in No. 16 and Tom Bollig in No. 11 had a fine race finishing in 4th 5th and 6th place respectively.

In heat 3, the race started with Haines, Lloyd and Hussain in the first three places and despite hard pressure from Wurz, again was the finishing order. Jostura snatched 3rd from Hussain only to be retaken before the line.

In the interval before the finals, the crowd of spectators that had grown to well over a thousand, were entertained by the stirring Scottish bagpipe music of the Caledonian Pipers in their national dress.

The opportunity was also taken by the drivers to change the engines and make alterations or repairs to their karts before they went back to the grid. Unlike the heats, all the remaining 20 karts had to be on the track at the same time and the competition was obviously going to be fierce.

The first final started with Haines on pole and Lloyd on antipole. Haines again led the field all the way despite pressure from Wilkes, Lloyd and Walsh with 2nd 3rd and 4th places changing hands three times in the first four laps. Langer and fellow novice driver Mike Rees of Kuwait were early retirements with mechanical problems and Bollig caused some uneasy moments when his throttle jammed open and he left the track airborne, fortunately he escaped with only bruises.

The final No. 2 saw Lloyd and Haines again in pole and antipole with Bollig, Dick and Wheeler as non starters. The battle immediately commenced between Haines and Walsh with Jostura in third, and a midfield tussle between Baha Akl, Niel Gardiner, and Peter Wakely soon developed.

In the 6th lap Haines and Walsh made contact on the bottom bend which threw Haines into the air and caused the race to be stopped. Haines suffered a broken foot in the accident and was forced to retire. A great disappointment for David after an excellent day's racing.

The race was restarted with Wilkes taking an early lead only to lose it to Walsh in the 2nd lap, Jostura in 3rd was being pressed hard by Hussain and Lloyd. Lloyd took 3rd in the 7th lap and during the 8th lap a mistake by Walsh at clubhouse bend allowed Wilkes through to first. Walsh tried to retake but spun allowing Lloyd through to take second with Hussain third.

Another anxious moment when Tom Colclough hit the tyre barrier coming out of the banked bend, but fortunately again only bruises.

Final No. 3 saw Wurz in kart No. 23 make a poor start and the lead was taken by Wilkes closely followed by Walsh, who passed Wilkes at the clubhouse on the 2nd lap and Jostura was forced to relinquish his 3rd place to Lloyd in the 4th lap. Ogilvie in Kuwait kart No. 77 drove superbly to take a 4th place in his first race meeting in 5 years.

At the end of the third final, the Caledonian Pipers again entertained the spectators while the drivers prepared themselves for



The Dubai squad which won the team event.

the international team event. Teams were entered for Dubai Kart Club, Mahdi Habib, Mesilah Beach Hotel and Kuwait 'C' team.

The drama started on the warm-up lap when Walsh lost a wheel but managed to repair it and rejoin the race which was comfortably won by Dubai because Ogilvie was unceremoniously shunted off at the hairpin by Wakely.

Trophies for the Middle East Kart Championship and the international team event were presented by KOC general superintendent of admin. & community services, Mohammed Saleh and Emad Mahdi Habib.

The day ended with a ladies race as the sun went down. Eight ladies got off to a great start with Sandra Gardiner taking an early

lead from Edith Kashkoush and Gilly Colclough. The lead developed into a spirited scrap between Gardiner and Kashkoush who both took turns at the front, but the flag was taken in superb style by Gardiner with Kashkoush second and Colclough third.

Ahmadi Kart Racing Committee wish to express their thanks to KOC, Mahdi Habib Commercial Est. British Airways and Austrian Airways, who all assisted in making the event possible.

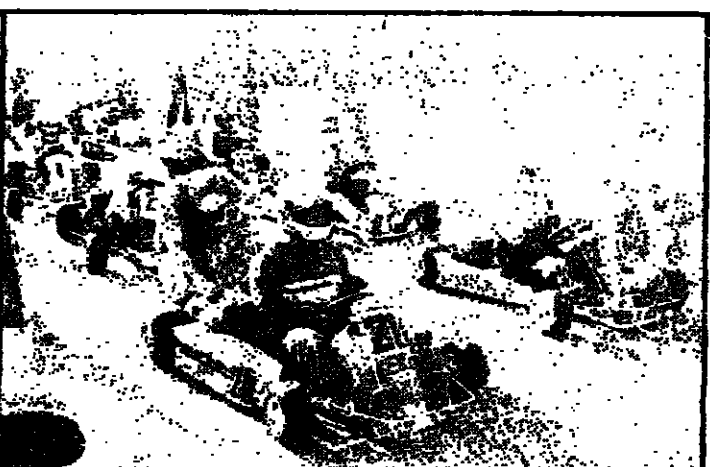
KTV 2, who were present throughout the day, will be showing highlights of the racing on the "Weekend" programme next Friday and video recordings of the racing compiled by the Kuwait Players video unit can be obtained through David Burfoot on 5732956.



Patrick Walsh



Haines receives treatment.



Drivers at the start point.



An action shot of the race.

Unemployed gambler blackmailing Yankees owner

NEW YORK, March 18. (AP) New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner is being blackmailed by an unemployed gambler who was involved in his legal battle with outfielder Dave Winfield and to whom he paid \$40,000, according to the New York Daily News.

In Sunday's edition, the News said Steinbrenner admitted paying the money on Jan. 8, to Howard Spira. Spira gave Steinbrenner information to use in his suit against Winfield, but Steinbrenner said that was not the reason for the payoff.

The paper said Spira signed an agreement promising never to disclose the payoff but has threatened to make it public, along with his tape-recorded conversations, unless Steinbrenner gives him an additional \$110,000 and a job at his American Shipbuilding Co. in Tampa, Florida.

Steinbrenner, in turn, has accused Spira of "extortion in its purest form" and Spira is under investigation by the FBI, which raided the Bronx, New York, apartment where he lives and seized tapes, legal documents and other records.

"If it was stupidity on my part, then it was," the News quoted Steinbrenner as saying in an interview yesterday. "But I honest to God felt that I could help this young man to get his life straight."

The Daily News said it listened to the tapes and quoted Steinbrenner as telling Spira in a

March 2 phone call:

"I offered you some money. You said, 'no, George, just give me this much more, just give me a little more, give me 40.' All right I went against everybody's advice, I gave you the 40 to try and help you and they said, they told me: 'Sure as hell, he'll be back trying to get more out of you.' And damned if you didn't."

"And then they come in and they tell me, 'hey, he's saying he's going to take the tapes and he's going to the papers, and he's gonna do this and he's gonna do that.' I said, 'he can't do that. I gave him money to help him. And I'm not going to give him any more.'"

Spira, on the other hand, says Steinbrenner "promised me the world — a job in Tampa,

money, room and board, anything I wanted — to help bring down Dave."

Steinbrenner denied promising Spira anything, telling the news: "I did it (paid Spira) because I cared about this guy, who in my opinion was a lost human being who cried about his parents, having used all of their money, who cried about the gamblers — the reason I did it was absolutely out of the goodness of my heart, no other reason. I said, 'Howard, go and try to start your life over.'"

"I did it against the advice of my people. I was wrong. They were right. That's all I can tell you. I look stupid for trusting a young guy, for trying to help a young guy."

As Latorre was falling to the ground in the centre of the area, he sent a right-footed shot into the left side of the goal.

Latorre had two other opportunities to score against Higuera, the Colombian national team keeper, but shot just wide of the goal each time.

In the 15th minute, Latorre broke into the left side of the penalty area and fired a shot at a charging Higuera, who deflected the ball. Latorre collected the ball quickly and fired another shot, but this one went wide to the left of the goal. In the closing moments of the match, Latorre broke in on Higuera again, but his shot was off the mark.

Atletico Nacional earned a berth in the tournament by winning the 1989 Copa Libertadores (Liberators' Cup), the annual South American Club Championship.

Boca Juniors had qualified for the final of the tournament by winning this year's South American Super Cup, a tournament for past winners of the Copa Libertadores.

Boca Juniors win

MIAMI, March 18. (Reuters) Boca Juniors of Argentina defeated Atletico Nacional of Colombia 1-0 (1-0 half) last night in a South American Football Confederation (Conmebol) tournament matching past and present champions.

Forward Diego Latorre scored the only goal in the 33rd minute on a brilliant individual effort. Latorre dribbled into the left side of the penalty area, and as goalkeeper Rene Higuera dove in an attempt to take the ball away, Latorre leaped over him.

As Latorre was falling to the ground in the centre of the area, he sent a right-footed shot into the left side of the goal.

Latorre had two other opportunities to score against Higuera, the Colombian national team keeper, but shot just wide of the

Valckx saves PSV from defeat

AMSTERDAM, March 18. (Reuters) Defender Stans Valckx saved Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven from an embarrassing home defeat against FC Twente with a freak goal in injury time yesterday.

Twente took the lead in the seventh minute through striker Jan Gasbeek and came close to their first win in Eindhoven in over a decade.

PSV's Brazilian striker Romario, out for the rest of the season with a broken leg, was sorely missed as Flemming Povlsen, Gerald Vanenburg and Juul Ellerman failed to find room for a decisive break through Twente's tough defence.

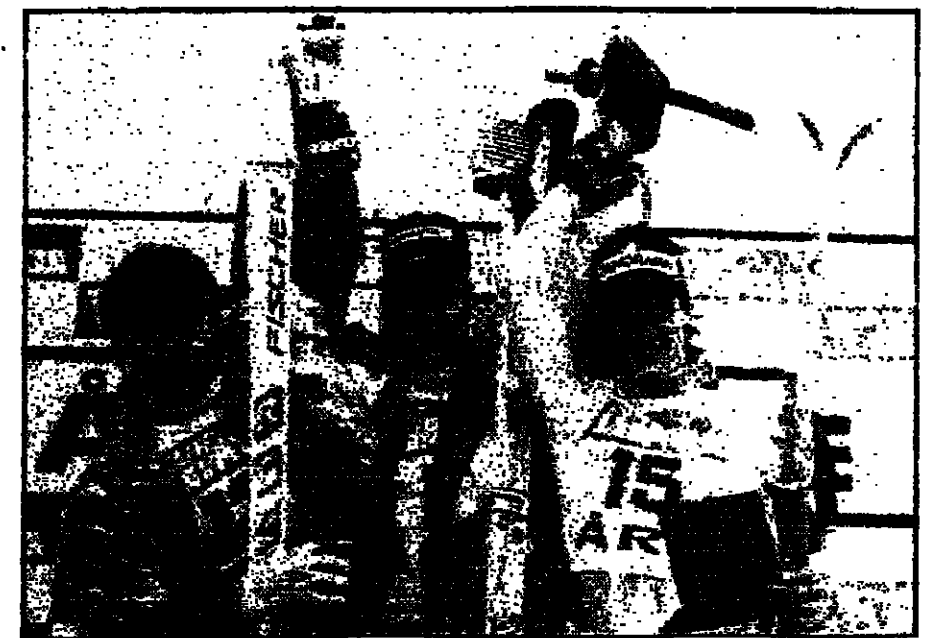
A last desperate attack well into injury-time finally saved the day for the Eindhoven side as Valckx slotted home a pass from Vanenburg. But the 1-1 result was anything but reassuring ahead of Wednesday's European Cup quarterfinal return leg at home to Bayern Munich, in which PSV need to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit.

PSV lead the Dutch table with 36 points from 26 matches, followed by Ajax, who travelled to Utrecht today, with 33 points from 24 games.



World Cup overall skiing champions

Men's and women's World Cup overall skiing champions Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland (right) and Austria's Petra Kronberger hold their trophies aloft after the last race of the season on Sunday in Are, Sweden. Right winners of Saturday's World Cup downhill race



on the podium — Austrian Helmut Hoeflehner (left), Norwegian winner Atle Skaardal and third place winner Felix Belczyk of Canada. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bracewell takes six wickets for 85 Kiwis set 178 to beat Aussies



Bracewell took last four wickets off 19 balls

WELLINGTON, March 18. (Reuters) New Zealand off-spinner John Bracewell turned a one-off cricket Test against Australia back in his team's favour late on the fourth day today.

Bracewell destroyed the Australian lower order to finish with the impressive figures of six for 85.

Australia were all out in their second innings for 269, leaving New Zealand a target of 178 runs to win. Kiwi openers John Wright and Trevor Franklin safely scored four of them by stumps.

Fortunes changed throughout the day, as Australian batsmen and then New Zealand bowlers held the upper hand.

Bracewell finished off the Australians with a lucrative spell late in the final session, taking his final four wickets for three runs from 19 balls.

He was sitting on a hat-trick in his 32nd over, after having Ian Healy caught close in for one and bowling Greg Campbell with the next ball. Carl Rackemann survived the hat-trick, but was bowled for one in Bracewell's next over.

Bracewell ended the Australian innings, when wicket-keeper Ian Smith stumped Terry Alderman.

Earlier, Australia's nightwatchman from yesterday

Peter Taylor laid a platform on which his side could build. He hit a career-best Test score of 87 off 155 balls, including eight fours. His previous highest Test score was 54 against Pakistan in 1988.

Taylor overshadowed opener Geoff Marsh in the morning session and scored faster than his skipper Allan Border after lunch, before edging a ball from Danny Morrison behind to Smith.

Taylor and border had a 103-run partnership over 138 minutes which promised to put Australia in a safe position.

However, two balls after Taylor departed, Dean Jones fell to a doubtful leg before wicket decision, also to Morrison. Jones was hit high up on the front pad from a ball cutting back into him off the seam.

Steve Waugh and Border took Australia to 232 before Waugh clipped a catch to point off Hadlee.

The last four Australian wickets fell for eight.

Bracewell showed that the slow Basin Reserve wicket was taking turn, so the Australians will be hoping Peter Taylor is as successful with his offspin as he was with the bat.

New Zealand, on the other hand, will need luck on a low-playing wicket which has posed problems for most batsmen over the first four days.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings 110 (P. Taylor 29, R. Hadlee five for 39, D. Morrison three for 22).

NEW ZEALAND first innings 202 (J. Wright 36, T. Alderman four for 46, P. Taylor three for 44).

AUSTRALIA second innings (over-night 57 for two)

G. Marsh c Rutherford b Bracewell 41
M. Taylor lbw b Hadlee 5
D. Boon c Smith b Bracewell 12
P. Taylor c Smith b Morrison 87
A. Border not out 78
D. Jones lbw b Morrison 0
S. Waugh c Greatbatch b Hadlee 25
I. Healy c Rutherford b Bracewell 10
G. Campbell b Bracewell 0
C. Rackemann b Bracewell 1
T. Alderman st Smith b Bracewell 1
Extras (lb-6, nb-3) 9
Total (from 108.2 overs) 269

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-54, 3-91, 4-191, 5-192, 6-232, 7-261, 8-261, 9-267.

Bowling: Hadlee 25-3-70-2 (nb-1), Morrison 24-8-58-2 (nb-2), Snedden 25-5-46-0, Bracewell 34-2-11-85-6, Jones 1-0-4-0.

NEW ZEALAND second innings
J. Wright not out 1
T. Alderman not out 1
Extras (lb-1) 1
Total (for none from four overs) 4

To bat: A. Jones, M. Greatbatch, K. Rutherford, J. Crowe, R. Hadlee, I. Smith, J. Bracewell, M. Snedden, D. Morrison.

Bowling: T. Alderman 2-2-0-0, C. Rackemann 2-0-3-0.

Marseille move closer to leaders

PARIS, March 18. (Reuters) A hat-trick from Marseille's predatory striker Jean-Pierre Papin brought last year's double winners within a single point of French League leaders Bordeaux yesterday.

Papin took his tally to 24 for the season when he grabbed all the goals in a 3-0 home win over Toulon, following the brace he scored only three days ago in a 2-0 away win to Sochaux.

With Bordeaux dropping their first home point of the season in a goalless draw with Monaco on Thursday, Marseille closed the gap to a single point and they still have a game in hand on their rivals.

But, Papin apart, Marseille's performance in the Mediterranean derby was hardly encouraging four days before their European Cup quarterfinal second leg with Cika Sofia even though they won the away leg 1-0.

Results

Lyon	4	Brest	0
Marseille	3	Toulon	0
Metz	1	Montpellier	0
Nantes	0	Caen	0
Nice	2	Racing Paris	0
PSG	5	Strasbourg	1
Toulouse	0	Sochaux	0

Played on Thursday:
Auxerre 2 St Etienne 1
Bordeaux 0 Monaco 0

Gooch and Bailey hit half tons

POINT-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, March 18. (Reuters) Graham Gooch and Rob Bailey both scored fifties but England's other batsmen struggled as the tourists reached 225 for seven on the first day of their four-day match against the West Indies Cricket Board President's XI yesterday.

Bailey struck 52, his highest score for England and a performance which may help to earn him the number three spot in the side for the third test after another failure by Alec Stewart.

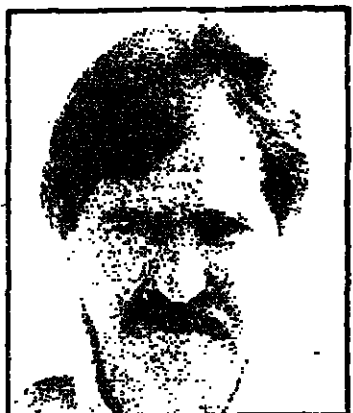
Gooch top-scored with a painstaking 66 from 134 balls which included only three boundaries.

Batting, however, was never easy on a slow wicket which was moist early on and which seemed around for much of the day.

Nonetheless, England should have fared better against a side which was reduced to two specialist bowlers from mid-afternoon when both the President's XI opening bowlers were forced to leave the field.

Patrick Patterson was suffering from a migraine and could bowl only six overs while Kenneth Benjamin got through 15 before retiring with a side strain.

England, who were put in by Gus Logie, lost Wayne Larkins in only the third over when Pat-



Graham Gooch

erson produced the best ball of the day — a lifter which moved away and took the edge to keeper Livingstone Harris.

Stewart lasted five overs before he was caught low down in the gully for six off Benjamin. He has now scored only 32 runs in his last five one-day and first-class innings.

Robin Smith and Gooch put together the best stand of the day — 71 in 33 overs — but the ball after the England captain had reached his fifty, Smith pushed forward to Robert Haynes and was caught at silly point off bat-



Rob Bailey

Leg-spinner Haynes, who bowled a marathon 43 overs in one day for Jamaica against England last month, again had a long bowl, reeling off his first 21 overs without relief.

He was rewarded with a second victim when Gooch, having batted for 220 minutes, got a top edge to an attempted sweep and was caught behind.

After losing David Capel immediately after tea, caught behind off occasional left-arm spinner Keith Arthurton, Bailey was joined by Jack Russell and the pair added 51 in 17 overs.

But two balls after reaching his

50, Bailey played his first rash shot, swinging across the line and falling low to Eldine Baptiste. He hit five fours and batted for 140 minutes.

Baptiste, forced to shoulder the bulk of the workload and bowling 32 overs, angled one across Russell, brushing the edge to give Harris his fourth catch.

Phil DeFreitas and his old school-mate Chris Lewis, in his first innings for England, took the tourists through to the close without further alarm.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings
G. Gooch c Harris b Haynes 66
W. Larkins c Harris b Patterson 1
A. Stewart c Adams b Benjamin 56
R. Smith c Morgan b Haynes 29
R. Bailey lbw b Baptiste 52
D. Capel c Harris b Arthurton 1
J. Russell c Harris b Baptiste 25
P. DeFreitas not out 6
C. Lewis not out 13
Extras (lb-4 w-4 nb-18) 26
Fall of wickets: 1-12 2-36 3-107 4-136 5-150 6-201 7-206

To bat: D. Malcolm, E. Hemmings
Bowling (to date): Patterson 8-0-33-1, Benjamin 15-2-34-1, Baptiste 30-5-77-2, Haynes 37-12-57-2, Arthurton 5-0-18-1, Morgan 1-0-2-0.

President's XI: G. Logie (captain), D. Morgan, C. Lamborn, K. Arthurton, J. Adams, B. Lara, R. Haynes, L. Harris, E. Baptiste, K. Benjamin, P. Patterson.

Match disrupted

MADRID, March 18. (Reuters) A pitch invasion and missile launch from the terraces disrupted the Athletic Bilbao-Real Madrid Spanish League clash yesterday.

The incident failed to prevent Real drawing 1-1 and increasing their lead to 11 points. A fifth successive championship looks certain.

Inevitably, Mexican Hugo Sanchez opened the score for the visitors with a 14th minute penalty, his 31st goal this season.



Cycling champion

Gianni Bruno of Italy on the winner's podium after receiving his trophy for finishing first in the Milan to San Remo cycling race on Saturday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jansher defies injury for title



Jansher wins Finnish Open

ESPOO, Finland, March 18. (Reuters) World squash champion Jansher Khan defied a knee injury to win the Finnish Open by beating local player Sami Elopuro 15-10 15-7 15-7 in the final today.

"I got my knee well warmed up for today's match. It didn't cause me any trouble," said the Pakistani world number two, who increased the pace after a 20-minute first game to complete his victory in a further 29 minutes.

"My knee's been bothering me through the whole competition," said Jansher. He explained that he banged his left knee when he skidded on a slippery court in Salzburg during the recent Austrian Open.

The doctor told me then I ought to give this competition a miss and rest up for a week or two. But it would have been a great pity to withdraw from the Finnish Open and would have badly hit the competition," he said.

Australia's Chris Dittmar, who had been seeded second here, incurred a large fine after he withdrew, pleading an unintentional clash of dates involving a series of exhibition matches against world number one Jahangir Khan in the Middle East.

Jansher, whose Finnish success earned him a \$5,400 prize, said he hoped to be able to pull out of forthcoming scheduled exhibition matches against compatriot Jahangir to ensure his knee was in good shape for the British Open.

Elopuro, the first Finn to reach the final of a major squash tournament, was happy with his own performance, especially in the first game when he made Jansher work hard the whole time.

Britain planning security operation for World Cup

LONDON, March 18. (AP) The British government has ordered its biggest security operation for a sports event to try to prevent hooliganism by its soccer fans at the World Cup, it was reported today.

The Sunday Telegraph quoted unidentified government sources as saying the programme would include use of British police as spotters to try to identify known soccer thugs for their Italian counterparts.

The Cup, soccer's world championship, opens in 12 Italian cities June 8.

The paper also said that authorities were concerned that trouble could erupt in Genoa, where ferries depart from the Italian mainland for Sardinia, the island where the English team will be based.

The Telegraph said that, in addition, towns in France and Italy have been warned to be prepared for trouble by British fans travelling by car to Italy for the World Cup.

"This is the biggest operation the government has ever mounted for a sporting event," the newspaper quoted one source as saying. "This effort is being made to save our reputation but, in spite of all this work, we have to prepare for trouble."

Last week, top British police officials said they had uncovered plans for battles at the World Cup between hooligans from England and the Netherlands.

The two teams, whose followers are among the most violent in Europe, play in the same first-round group on Sardinia and Sicily.

Another British newspaper, the Sunday Times, reported that hooligans from around the country were plotting violence at an exhibition match between England and Tunisia in Tunis June 2, and outside the stadium in the Sardinia capital of Cagliari June 16, when England and the Netherlands play.

It quoted Sean Gibbs, identified as a known hooligan from Cheltenham, England, as saying he was looking forward to "serious violence" at the Cup.

Campbell takes revenge — 14 years on

Chelsea beat Arsenal

LONDON, March 18. (Reuters) Nearly 14 years ago, Bobby Campbell quit his job as Arsenal coach after failing to land the coveted manager's job in succession to Bertie Mee.

Yesterday, he returned to Highbury for the first time as a manager and walked away a very happy man indeed.

Not only did his team Chelsea do what no other side have done this season, they effectively shattered the English League soccer champions' fading hopes of retaining the title.

The 1-0 win dealt Arsenal their first home defeat of the season and gave midfielder John Barnes a goal to celebrate on his 300th appearance for the West London club.

Jubilant
"I am highly delighted with this win but I'd better not say too much about why," said a jubilant Campbell.

Arsenal remain in third place in the League, 12 points off the pace set by League leaders Aston Villa, and just one point in front of Chelsea who have played one game more.

Arsenal manager George Graham, whose team conceded the 64th-minute goal against the run of play, was clearly shaken.

"I never think about the title. I didn't last year when we won it but you can't win it if you have to keep playing for your professional pride and finish as high as possible," he said.

"There could still be possibly Europe to aim for and you have to give your fans value for money. But this result summed



Tony Cottee

up our season — we were very inconsistent."

The fans, who jeered Graham's decision to bring off striker Kevin Campbell late in the game, were clearly unhappy.

Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal's north London neighbours, were also nursing wounds inflicted by West Londoners, going down 3-1 at Queen's Park Rangers who could have scored more.

Norwich drew 1-1 with relegation-threatened Millwall but the



Tony Cascarino

match turned bad in the 61st minute when Norwich's Robert Fleck and Millwall's Steve Wood were sent off for fighting.

For several disgruntled strikers, Saturday proved a time to remind their managers just what they could do.

Transfer-listed Tony Cottee scored a brace as Everton beat Crystal Palace 4-0 while Manchester City's one-time England international Clive Allen returned to the first team after two months out and hit a penalty in

their 1-1 draw at Luton.

Villa's Ian Ormondroyd, dropped to the substitutes' bench to make way for new £1.5 million (\$2.4 million) signing Tony Cascarino, scored his team's winner at Derby.

Brought on for the second half, the lanky Ormondroyd broke the ice in the 71st minute to give Villa a crucial 1-0 win.

"I was disappointed to be on the bench, but I put some pressure on the manager by coming on and scoring," said the man who had vowed before the match to fight for his first-team place even if he had to spend a spell in the reserves to do so.

Manager Graham Taylor said he was very satisfied with the performance of Ireland striker Cascarino, making his debut after signing from struggling Millwall on Thursday.

But he singled out Cascarino's Ireland teammate Paul McGrath as his man of the match for his performance in defence.

"McGrath is playing out of his skin," he said.

Another player winning copious managerial praise was Southampton striker Matthew Le Tissier, who scored twice to put his team back from 3-1 down at Wimbledon to a 3-3 draw.

But Charlton manager Lennie Lawrence despaired of his bottom-placed club after they gave away a soft goal in the dying moments against Nottingham Forest to draw 1-1.

"I sympathise with the players who worked themselves to a standstill but it has all ended tragically," he said.

SPORTS

Italian soccer

ROME, March 18. (Reuters) Results of Italian First Division soccer matches today:
Ascoli 2 Fiorentina 0
Bari 4 Atalanta 0
Cesena 1 Genoa 0
Verona 1 Bologna 1
Juventus 1 Udinese 1
Lazio 0 Roma 0
AC Milan 1 Inter 0
Sampdoria 2 Napoli 0

Schneider wins

ARE, Sweden, March 18. (AP) Vreni Schneider of Switzerland captured the women's season slalom title today by winning the last race on the World Cup tour. Schneider was only 11th after the first run, then capitalised on mishaps in the second run, two of her main rivals.

PGA tourney

NEW YORK, March 18. (Reuters) Heavy rain forced the suspension of the third round of the 71.5 American Players Championship Golf Tournament yesterday. Only 24 of the 72 players in the field completed the round. The third round was to resume this morning, followed by the fourth round in the afternoon. Good weather was forecast for today.

Florida Derby

HALLANDALE, Florida, March 18. (AP) Unbridled pulled away in the stretch yesterday to win the \$500,000 Florida Derby by four lengths. Unbridled, ridden by Pat Day, duplicated his strong stretch run that got him third place in the March 24 Mountain of Youth Stakes.

NHL games

NEW YORK, March 18. (Reuters) Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday:
Quebec 6 Philadelphia 3
Calgary 5 Hartford 3
New Jersey 4 Edmonton 1
Vancouver 3 Washington 1
Montreal 3 Chicago 2
Winnipeg 5 Toronto 4
Detroit 4 St Louis 2
Los Angeles 3 Pittsburgh 2
N.Y. Islanders 6 N.Y. Rangers 3

British soccer

MANCHESTER, March 18. (Reuters) Liverpool beat Manchester United 2-1 (firsttime 1-0) in the English league first division clash staged at Old Trafford today.

Scorers: Manchester United, Ronnie Whelan (81st minute, own goal). Liverpool, John Barnes (15th and 54th, penalty). Attendance: 46,629.

Soviets lose

BRISBANE, Australia, March 18. (AP) The Queensland Reds handed the Soviet Union its first loss of a six-match rugby union tour of Australia today with a 40-17 win.

Timman holds Karpov to draw

KUALA LUMPUR, March 18. (Reuters) Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman drew with former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union today in the sixth game of their 12-game World Candidates' Final chess match.

The game was postponed from Friday when Timman called a time out after falling two points behind his Soviet opponent.

Karpov, playing a white, opened with a queen's pawn. Timman, rejecting the solid neogrunder defence, opted for a flank attack. Surprisingly Karpov accepted the challenge, allowing Timman to develop the ultra-sharp modern Benoni defence.

Karpov now leads by four points to two. The overall winner is the first to reach 6.5 points.

The seventh game is scheduled tomorrow with Timman playing white pieces.

Farwaniya win

FAIRAKA XI, overcome Fairakta Cricket Club by 14 runs in a friendly match at the Farwaniya match earlier this week.

Farwaniya were put in to bat after winning the toss and lost their first four wickets for only 50 runs. Basim pulled the team out of the doldrums by hitting 79 runs with the help of three sixes and eight fours. Farwaniya managed to score 171 in their allotted overs.

Failakta tried hard to keep up with the run-rate but fell short by 14 runs and were all out for 157. Nadeem took three wickets while Basim and Ahsan got two each. Mushah and Asim chipped in with one wicket apiece.

KIH tennis

RESULTS of the Kuwait International Hotel's 1990 Amateur Tennis Classic Tournament, being held at the KIH courts:

Men's singles
G. Zacheri defeated W. Saleh 6-4, 1-6, 2-2 retired.
F. Padda def S. Dhanak 6-1, 6-0
A. Tamton def M. Al-Jazairah 6-1, 6-1
A. Nair def P. Stubbs 6-0, 6-1
S. John def S. Vogt 6-2, 6-1
Open doubles
N. Al Kady & W. Saleh def J. Dufour & M. Hermann 6-1, 6-1